



**Quality of Life Report**

**Tallahassee-Leon County, FL**

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## **EDUCATION**

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### **Tallahassee-Leon County Florida**



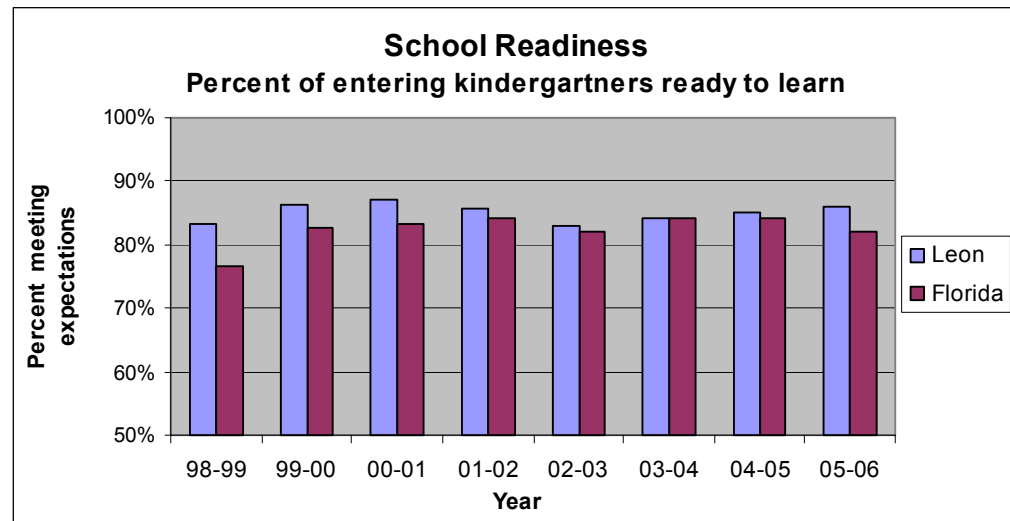
**EDUCATION**  
**Indicator 1: School Readiness**

Updated  
05/05/06

**Indicator:**  
*Percent of kindergartners entering public school who were ready to learn.*

**Analysis:**  
 A large majority of kindergartners enter Leon County Public Schools ready to learn and a slightly higher percentage than the state as a whole.

Nevertheless, as of 2005-06, 14% of entering kindergartners did not meet expectations for school readiness in Leon County. A significant gap generally existed between Leon County White and African American students on readiness for school however this data is no longer available.



**Data source:**  
 Florida Department of Education, Assessment and School Performance, School Readiness Uniform Screening System

**Website:**  
<http://users.firn.edu/doe/sas/srushome.htm>

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Leon County	83%	86%	87%	86%	83%	84%	85%	86%
Florida	77%	83%	83%	84%	82%	84%	84%	82%
Leon - Whites	88%	91%	92%	90%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leon - Blacks	77%	79%	80%	79%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
White-Black Gap	11%	13%	13%	11%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

\* Not shown on graph. The White-Black Gap is the White percentage minus the Black percentage.



**EDUCATION**  
**Indicator 2: Reading**

Updated  
05/28/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of Leon County public school students scoring 3 or above in reading on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).*

**Analysis:**

Reading performance declined in Leon County in 2006 compared with 2005 levels in meeting proficiency standards (3 or above) for their grade level. The state showed improvement for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and no improvement for 10<sup>th</sup> graders in 2006.

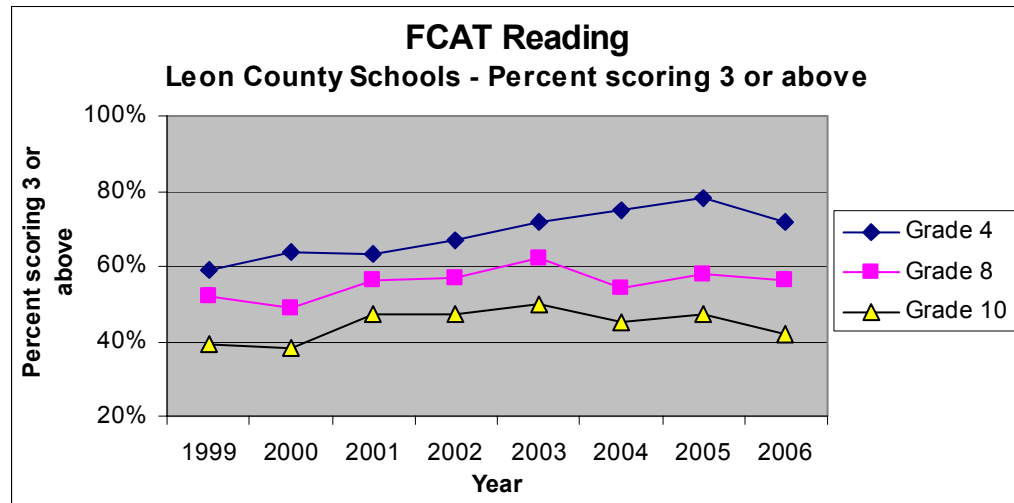
However, at all grades assessed, Leon County students continued to outperform students in the state as a whole.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education, Assessment and Evaluation Services  
*(Results are shown for all curriculum students, including those in exceptional student education who are expected to pursue a standard high school diploma.)*

**Website:**

<http://fcats.fldoe.org/>



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Grade 4 – Leon County	59%	64%	63%	67%	72%	75%	78%	72%
Grade 4 – Florida*	48%	52%	53%	55%	63%	69%	71%	66%
Grade 8 – Leon County	52%	49%	56%	57%	62%	54%	58%	56%
Grade 8 – Florida*	44%	39%	43%	45%	49%	44%	44%	46%
Grade 10 – Leon County	39%	38%	47%	47%	50%	45%	47%	42%
Grade 10 – Florida*	30%	29%	37%	36%	36%	34%	32%	32%

\* Not shown on graph

Note: The FCAT is administered Feb-Mar of each school year. Only students in grades 4, 8, and 10 have been tested in reading since 1999. Students in grades 3 – 10 have been tested since 2002.



**EDUCATION**

**Indicator 3: White-Black Gap in Reading**

Updated  
02/12/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of Leon County public school students scoring 3 and above on FCAT Reading, by race, in 2005*

**Analysis:**

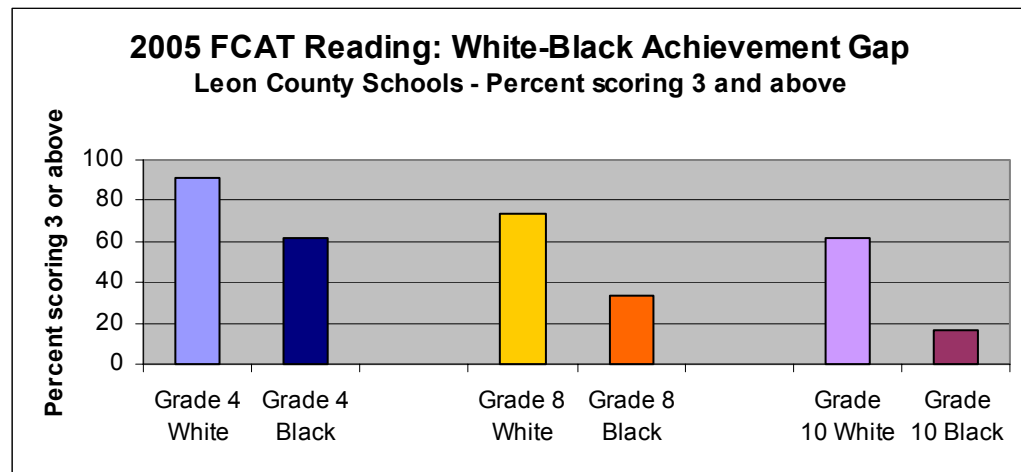
In Reading, Whites continue to score significantly better than Blacks at every grade level for every year FCAT test results are available. In 2005, the Black-White achievement gap widened significantly from grade 4 to grade 8 and increased slightly from grade 8 to grade 10.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Assessment and Evaluation Services  
*(Results are shown for all curriculum students, including those in exceptional student education who are expected to pursue a standard high school diploma.)*

**Website:**

<http://fcats.fldoe.org/>



2005 FCAT Reading	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 10
White	91%	74%	62%
Black	62%	33%	17%
<b>White-Black Gap*</b>	<b>+29%</b>	<b>+41%</b>	<b>+45%</b>

\*Not shown on graph. White percentage scoring 3 and above minus Black percentage scoring 3 and above.



**EDUCATION**  
**Indicator 4: Mathematics**

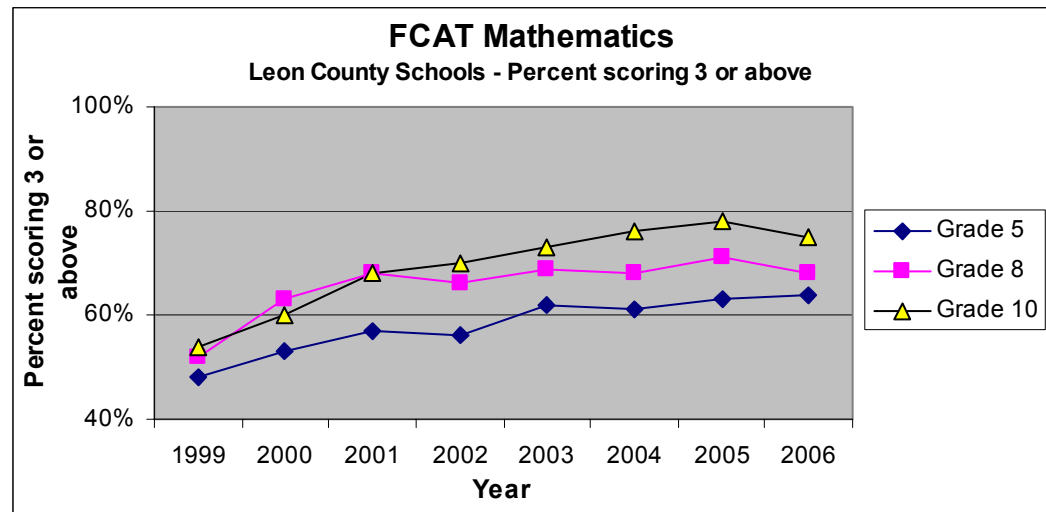
Updated  
 05/28/06

**Indicator:**  
 Percent of Leon County public school students who scored 3 or above in mathematics on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

**Analysis:**  
 Mathematics achievement of Leon County students improved marginally in 2006 for grade 5 and decreased slightly for grades 8 and 10 compared with 2005 levels. As in reading, Leon County students consistently outperform students in the state at all grade levels assessed.

**Data source:**  
 Florida Department of Education  
 Assessment and Evaluation Services  
 (Results are shown for all curriculum students, including those in exceptional student education who are expected to pursue a standard high school diploma.)

**Website:**  
<http://fcat.fldoe.org/>



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Grade 5 – Leon County	48%	53%	57%	56%	62%	61%	63%	64%
Grade 5 – Florida*	35%	46%	48%	48%	52%	52%	57%	57%
Grade 8 – Leon County	52%	63%	68%	66%	69%	69%	71%	68%
Grade 8 – Florida*	44%	51%	55%	53%	56%	57%	59%	60%
Grade 10–Leon County	54%	60%	68%	70%	73%	77%	78%	75%
Grade 10 – Florida*	47%	51%	59%	60%	60%	64%	63%	65%

\* Not shown on graph  
 Note: The FCAT is administered Feb-Mar of each school year. Only students in grades 5, 8, and 10 have been tested in Mathematics since 1999. Students in grades 3 - 10 have been tested since 2002.



**EDUCATION**

**Indicator 5: White-Black Gap in Mathematics**

Updated  
02/12/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of Leon County public school students scoring 3 and above on FCAT Mathematics, by race, in 2005*

**Analysis:**

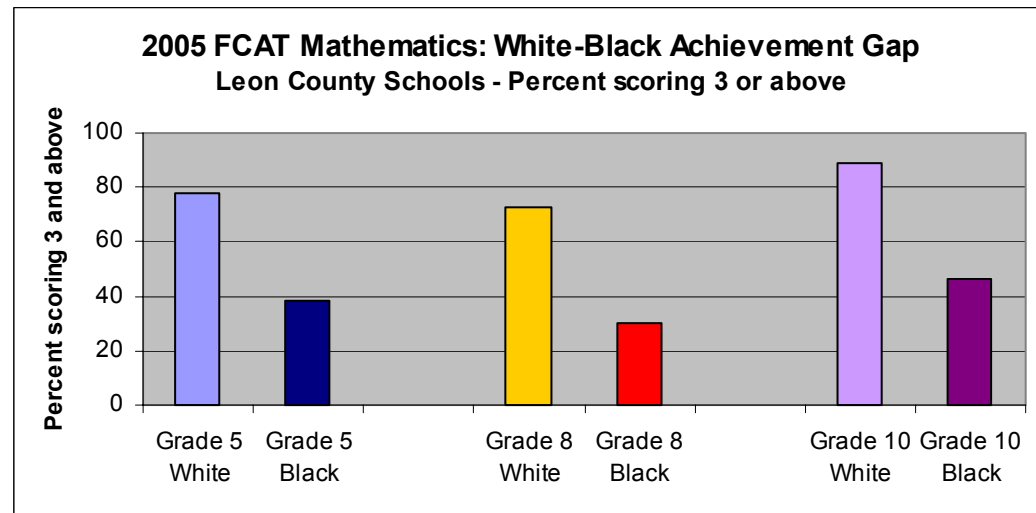
As in Reading, Whites have consistently scored better than Blacks at every grade level tested. In 2005, the Black-White achievement gap was significant for all grades but lessened slightly from grade 5 to grade 8 and then again from grade 8 to grade 10.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Assessment and Evaluation Services  
*(Results are shown for all curriculum students, including those in exceptional student education who are expected to pursue a standard high school diploma.)*

**Website:**

<http://fcats.fldoe.org/>



2005 FCAT Math	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 10
White	78%	85%	88%
Black	38%	49%	55%
<b>White-Black Gap*</b>	<b>+40%</b>	<b>+36%</b>	<b>+33%</b>

\* Not shown on graph. White percentage scoring 3 and above minus Black percentage scoring 3 and above.



**EDUCATION**  
**Indicator 6: Writing**

Updated  
05/28/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of Leon County public school students scoring 3 and above (3.5 and above for Writing+) on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Writing+.*

On the FCAT, a significantly larger percentage of students score 3 or above in writing compared to mathematics and reading.

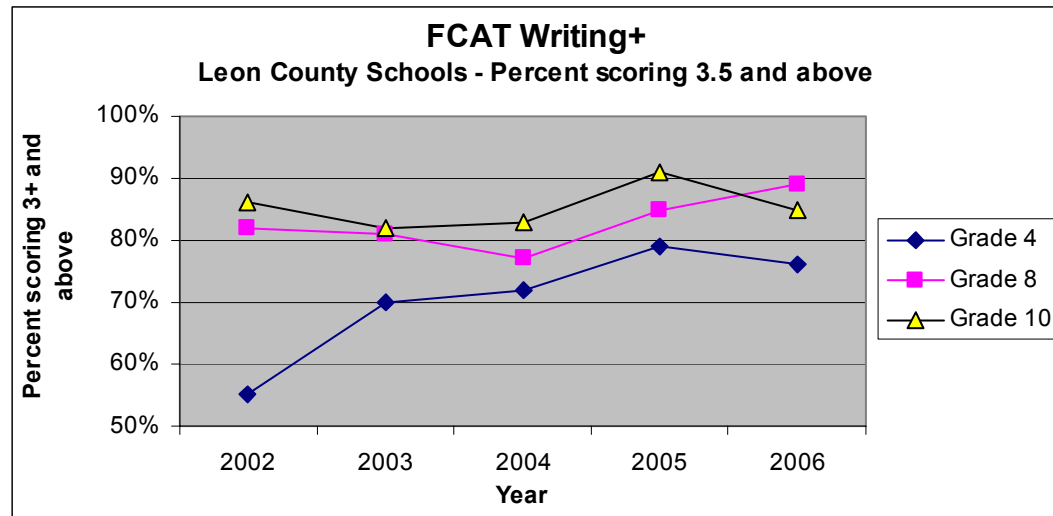
Writing performance declined in Leon County in 2006 compared with 2005 levels for 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in meeting proficiency standards (3.5 or above) for their grade level. The state showed improvement for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and a decline for 10<sup>th</sup> graders in 2006.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Assessment and Evaluation Services  
*(Results are shown for all curriculum students, including those in exceptional student education who are expected to pursue a standard high school diploma)*

**Website:**

<http://fcat.fldoe.org/>



	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Grade 4 – Leon County	55%	70%	72%	79%	76%
Grade 4 – Florida*	52%	69%	69%	74%	76%
Grade 8 – Leon County	82%	81%	77%	85%	89%
Grade 8 – Florida*	74%	76%	73%	76%	83%
Grade 10 – Leon County	86%	82%	83%	91%	85%
Grade 10 – Florida*	79%	77%	79%	79%	78%

\* Not shown on graph.

Note: The FCAT is administered Feb-Mar of each school year. Currently, only students in grades 4, 8 and 10 are tested in Writing.



**EDUCATION**

Updated  
10/09/06

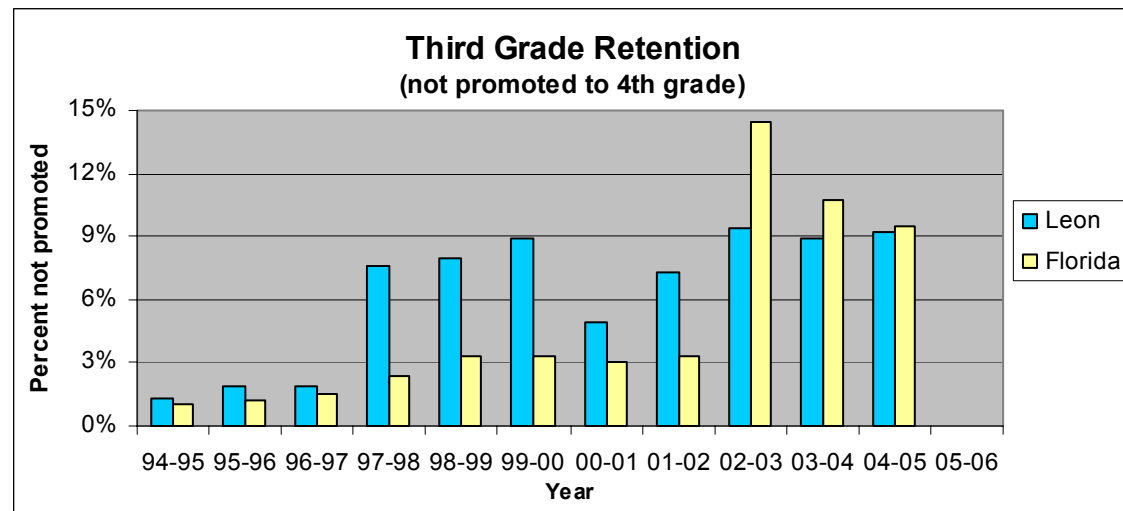
**Indicator 7: Third Grade Retention**

**Indicator:**

*Percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who were retained (not promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade).*

**Analysis:**

In Leon County public schools, the percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders retained increased sharply over the 3-year period from 1997-98 to 1999-00, when the state and district increased requirements for promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The increase from 00-01 to 02-03 reflects an even stricter state policy requiring an FCAT Reading score of 3 or above for promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, with limited exemptions allowed to be made by the district. The impact of this new policy was much more dramatic statewide than in Leon County schools.



	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Leon – number*	46	180	199	222	123	180	223	208	236
Leon – percent	1.9%	7.6%	8.0%	8.9%	4.9%	7.3%	9.4%	8.9%	9.2%
Florida – percent	1.5%	2.4%	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%	3.3%	14.4%	10.7%	9.5%

\* Not shown on graph

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Education Information and Accountability Services

**Websites:**

<http://www.tandl.leon.k12.fl.us/programme/databook/>  
<http://www.firn.edu/doc/eias/eiaspubs/briefs.htm>



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Indicator 8: High School Graduation Rate

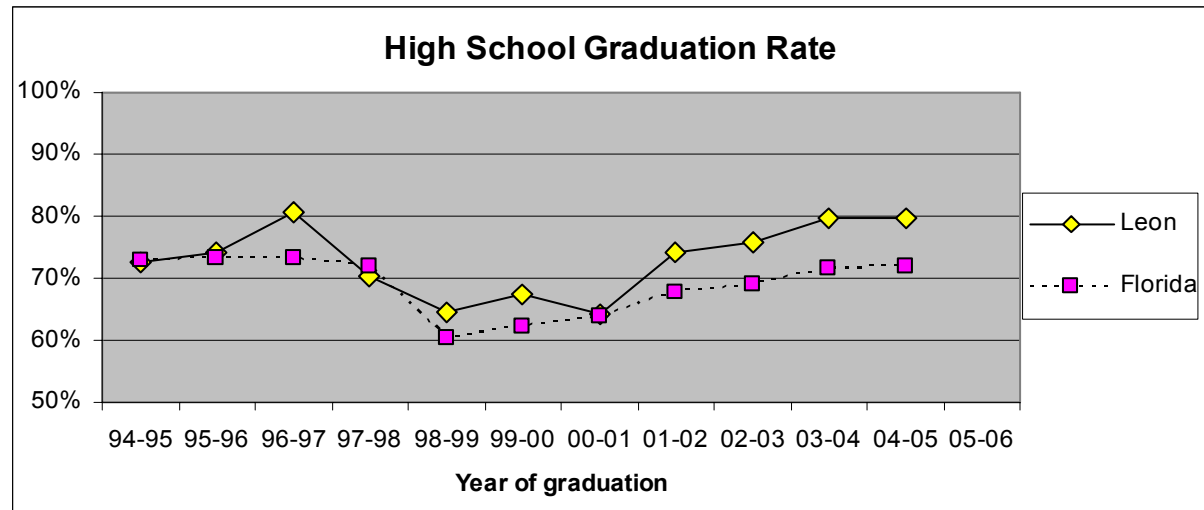
Updated  
12/29/05

**Indicator:**

*Percent of first-time 9<sup>th</sup> graders in public schools who earned a standard high school diploma in four years.*

**Analysis:**

Graduation rates declined in Leon County from 1997 to 2001, increased steadily from 2002 to 2004 and leveled off last year. In nine of the last ten years, Leon County's graduation rate was the same or above the state graduation rate.



**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Education Information and Accountability Services

**Website:**

<http://www.firn.edu/doc/eias/eiaspubs/grad.htm>

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Leon County	81%	70%	65%	67%	64%	74%	76%	80%	80%
Florida	73%	72%	60%	62%	64%	68%	69%	72%	72%



**EDUCATION**

**Indicator 9: High School Dropout Rate**

Updated  
12/29/05

**Indicator:**

*Percent of public school students age 16 and older who dropped out of school.*

**Analysis:**

Overall, Leon County’s dropout rate declined in 2004-05 after increasing the previous school year. Since 1998-1999, the drop out rate in Leon County has declined much more slowly than the state rate.

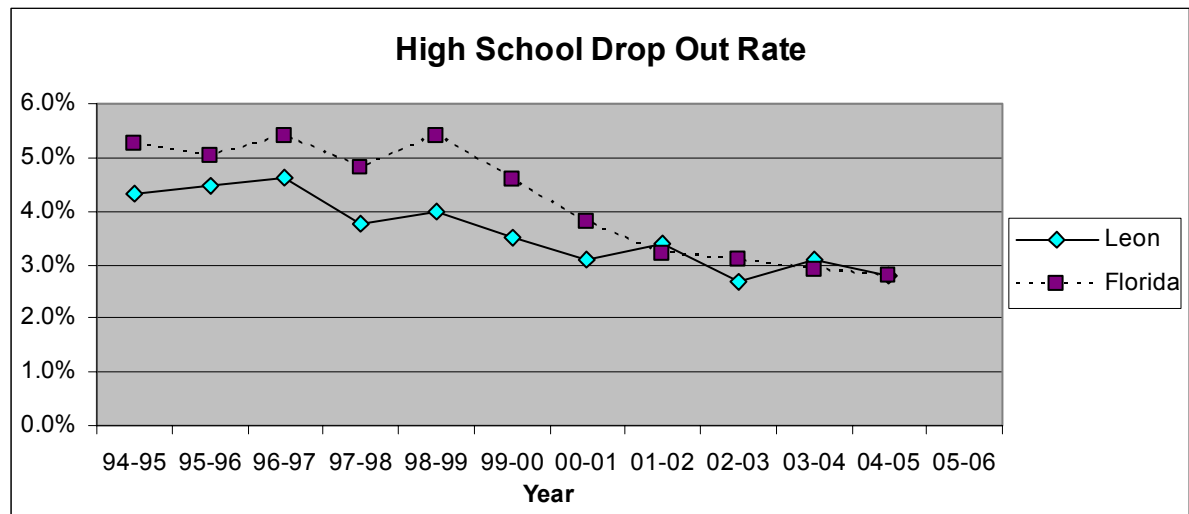
In 2001-02 and 2003-04, Leon County’s dropout rate exceeded the state rate.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Education Information and Accountability Services

**Website:**

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/eias/eiaspubs/drop.htm>



	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Leon County	4.6%	3.8%	4.0%	3.5%	3.1%	3.4%	2.7%	3.1%	2.8%
Florida	5.4%	4.8%	5.4%	4.6%	3.8%	3.2%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%



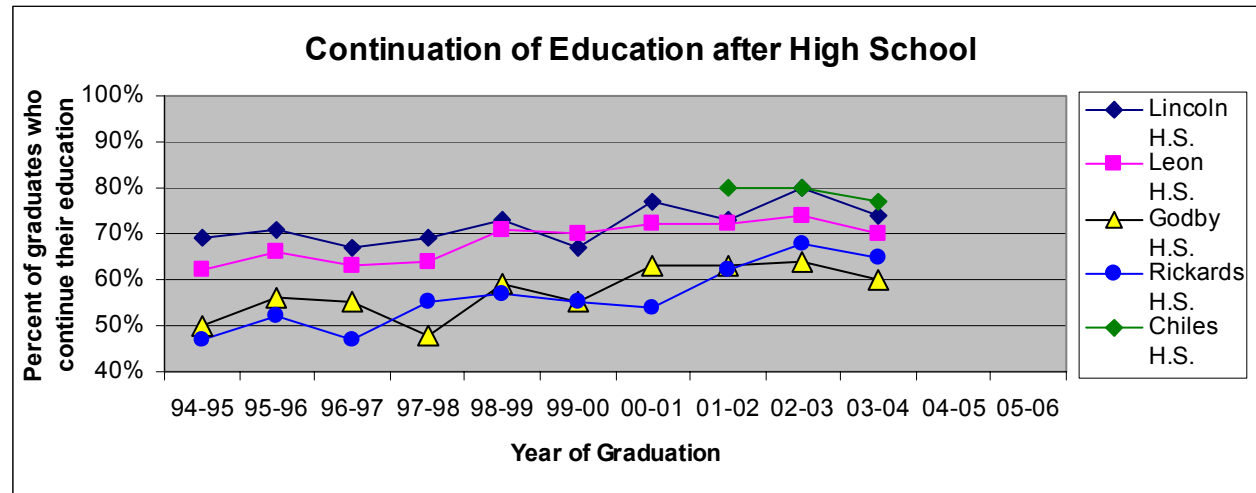
EDUCATION

Indicator 10: Pursuit of Postsecondary Education

Updated  
12/29/05

**Indicator:**  
Percent of public high school graduates who entered community college or 4-year colleges and universities in Florida the fall after graduation.

**Analysis:**  
The percentage of high school graduates in Leon County that pursued postsecondary education immediately after high school declined at all high schools in 2003-04 compared with 2002-03.



**Data source:**  
Florida Department of Education  
Florida Education and Training Placement  
Information Program

**Website:**  
<http://www.firm.edu/doe/weois/fetpip/high.htm>

Leon County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Lincoln H.S.	67%	69%	73%	67%	77%	73%	80%	74%
Leon H.S.	63%	64%	71%	70%	72%	72%	74%	70%
Godby H.S.	55%	48%	59%	55%	63%	73%	64%	60%
Rickards H.S.	47%	55%	57%	55%	54%	62%	68%	65%
Chiles H.S.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80%	80%	77%



**EDUCATION**

**Indicator 11: Average Teacher Salary**

Updated  
01/17/06

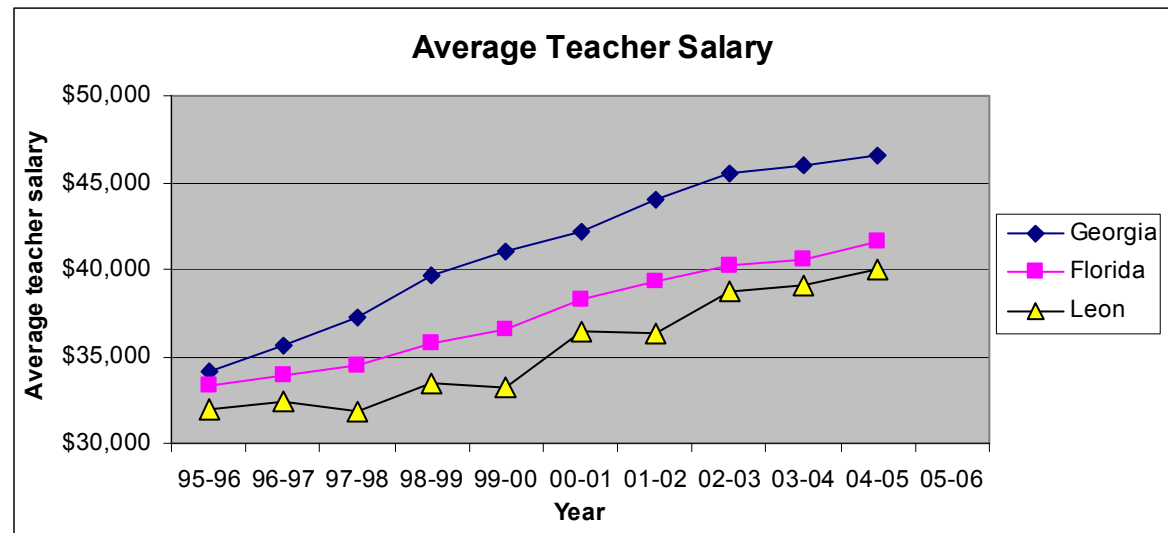
**Indicator:**

*Average teacher salary in grades K-12 in public schools.*

**Analysis:**

The gap between Leon County and Florida on average teacher salary increased slightly from 2003-04 (\$1,481) to 2004-05 (\$1,620), and improved slightly in comparison with Georgia (\$6,821) 2003-04 vs. (\$6,568) 2004-05.

Wakulla County's gap with Leon remained more than \$3,000 for the third straight year.



**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Education Information & Accountability Services  
National Education Association

**Websites:**

<http://www.leon.k12.fl.us/>  
<http://www.firn.edu/doe/eias/eiaspubs/briefs.htm>

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Leon County	\$31,871	\$33,408	\$33,264	\$36,454	\$36,269	\$38,719	\$39,117	\$39,958
Georgia	\$37,291	\$39,675	\$41,023	\$42,216	\$44,073	\$45,533	\$45,938	\$46,526
Florida	\$34,475	\$35,749	\$36,524	\$38,299	\$39,272	\$40,275	\$40,598	\$41,578
Jefferson County*	\$31,091	\$31,083	\$30,841	\$34,012	\$33,635	\$34,643	\$33,022	\$35,094
Gadsden County*	\$29,458	\$29,888	\$30,562	\$30,846	\$31,750	\$32,831	\$32,428	\$32,656
Wakulla County*	\$29,743	\$31,332	\$32,717	\$34,238	\$35,046	\$35,473	\$35,752	\$36,897
Georgia-Leon gap*	+\$5,420	+\$6,267	+\$7,759	+\$5,762	+\$7,804	+\$6,814	+\$6,821	+\$6,568

\*Not shown on graph. The Georgia-Leon gap is the Georgia avg. teacher salary minus the Leon County avg. teacher salary.



**EDUCATION**  
**Indicator 12: School Safety**

Updated  
01/29/06

**Indicator:**

*Number of school safety incidents reported per 1,000 K-12 students in public schools.*

**Analysis:**

In general, public schools in Leon County have maintained a fairly stable level of safety. However, the rate of total incidents in Leon County has been above the statewide rate for four straight years and was 61% higher than the State rate in 2004-05.

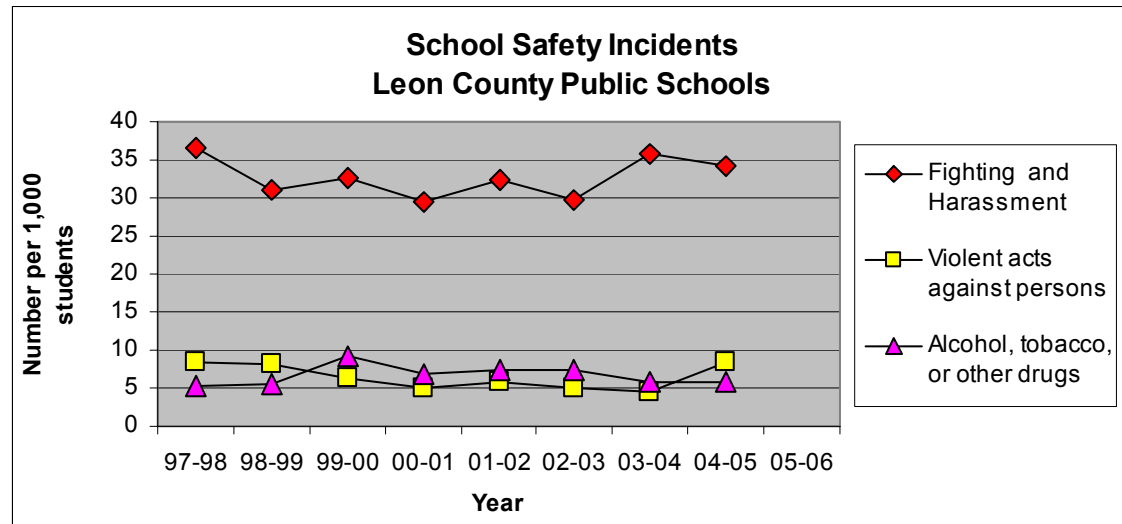
The number of incidents of violent acts against persons in Leon County public schools jumped from 140 to 269 occurrences between the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school year.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education  
Division of K-12 Public Schools and Student Achievement, Bureau of Student Assistance

**Website:**

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/discipline.htm>



Leon County	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Fighting and Harassment	31.1	32.7	29.5	32.3	29.7	35.9	34.1
Alcohol, tobacco, other drugs	5.6	9.2	6.9	7.3	7.3	5.7	5.8
Violent acts against persons	8.2	6.4	4.9	5.8	5.0	4.4	8.3
Disorderly conduct*	3.4	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.9	5.1	5.5
Weapons possession*	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.6	3.5	2.2	2.9
Property offenses*	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.3	2.1	1.6	2.3
<b>LEON COUNTY - TOTAL*</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>61.2</b>
<b>FLORIDA - TOTAL*</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>37.9</b>

\* Not shown on graph



**EDUCATION**

**Indicator 13: Adult Educational Attainment**

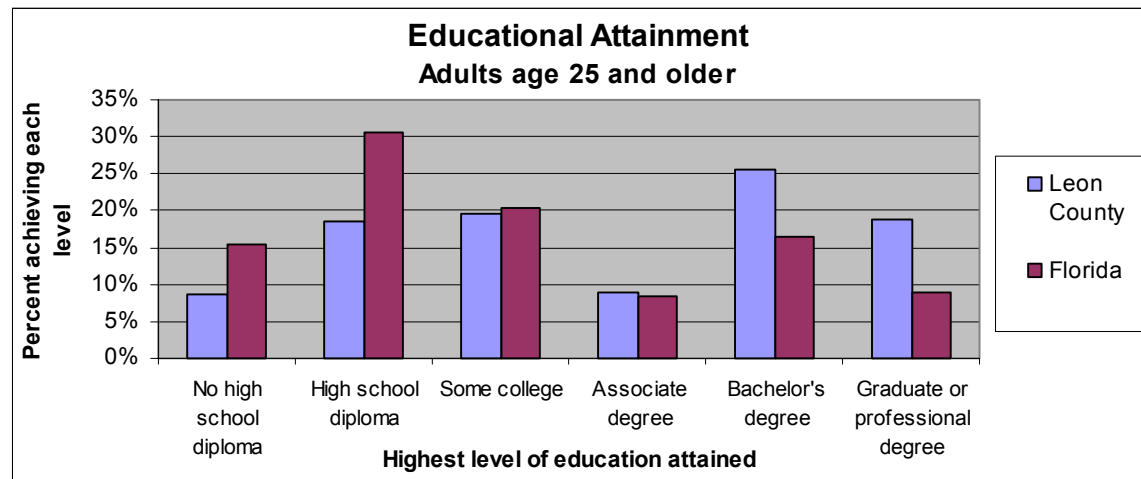
Updated  
08/29/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of adults age 25 and older in Leon County who completed high school and postsecondary education.*

**Analysis:**

Educational attainment in Leon County is significantly above the state average. In 2005, the percent of the population 25 and older with a bachelor's degree was 26% in Leon County compared to 16% in Florida; the percent with graduate/professional degrees was more than double the statewide average.



**Data source:**

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Website:**

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

2005	Leon County	Florida
No high school diploma	9%	15%
High school diploma	18%	31%
Some college	20%	20%
Associate degree	9%	8%
Bachelor's degree	26%	16%
Graduate or professional degree	19%	9%

Note: The American Community Survey is limited to household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters



EDUCATION

Indicator 14: Public Library Use

Updated  
01/07/06

**Indicator:**

*Number of volumes borrowed per resident in areas served by public libraries.*

**Analysis:**

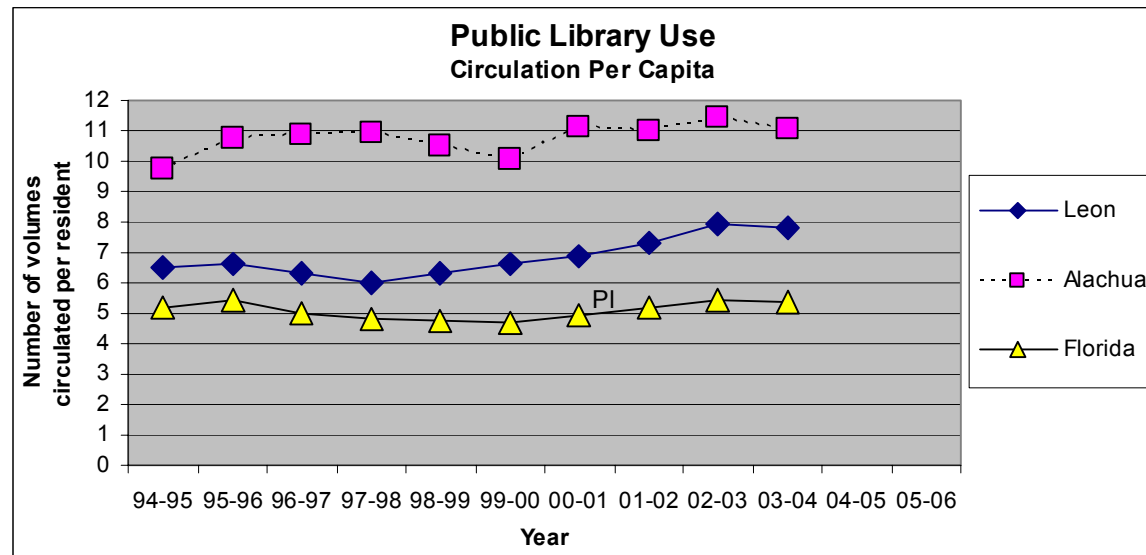
Public library use (as measured by circulation of printed materials per resident) is higher in Leon County than in Florida as a whole. Leon County's circulation per capita has steadily increased since 1997-98 but remains significantly lower than in Alachua County, the Florida county with the highest circulation per capita.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of State, Office of Community Development, Planning, Evaluation & Statistics Unit  
*Data excludes college and university libraries.*

**Website:**

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/BLD/>



	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Leon	6.53	6.61	6.34	5.99	6.30	6.61	6.87	7.33	7.92	7.84
Alachua	9.73	10.72	10.90	10.92	10.49	10.09	11.11	10.97	11.44	11.09
Florida	5.19	5.44	5.00	4.83	4.78	4.69	4.93	5.21	5.42	5.40



**EDUCATION**  
**Indicator 15: Class Size**

Updated  
04/09/06

**Indicator:**

*Average number of students per class in elementary, middle and high school.*

**Analysis:**

In 2002, a state constitutional amendment capped the number of students per core-curriculum classroom at 18 in grades PK-3, 22 in grades 4-8 and 25 in grades 9-12. These caps are to be achieved by the beginning of the 2010-11 school year.

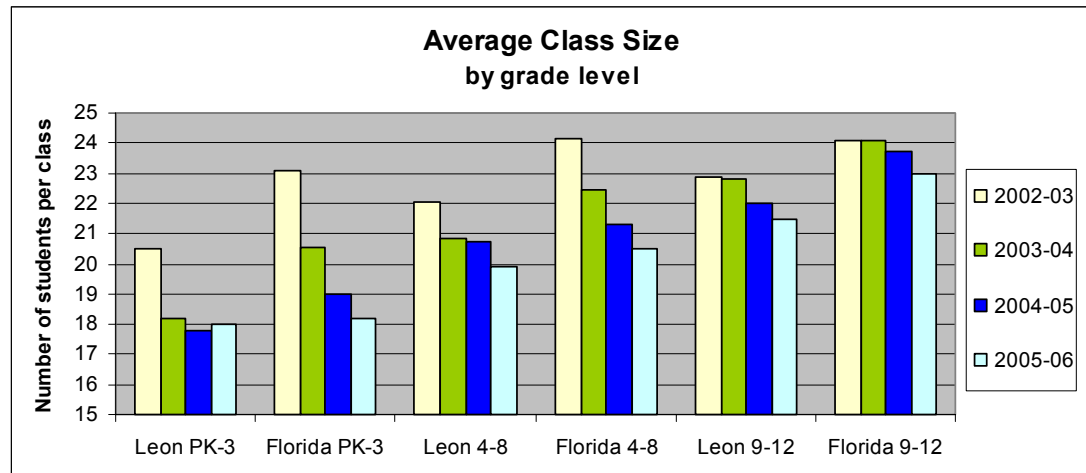
To date, Leon County is on track for achieving this goal. As of January 2006, Leon County's average class size for the district was at or below these targets at each grade level and was lower than the average for the state as a whole. By 2010-11, these caps will have to be met in every classroom.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education

**Website:**

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/arm/class-size.htm>



	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Leon PK-3	20.5	18.2	17.8	18.0
Florida PK-3	23.1	20.5	19.0	18.2
Leon 4-8	22.1	20.8	20.7	19.9
Florida 4-8	24.2	22.4	21.3	20.5
Leon 9-12	22.8	22.8	22.0	21.5
Florida 9-12	24.1	24.1	23.7	23.0



**EDUCATION**

**Indicator 16: Students with Disabilities**

Updated  
02/06/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of students with disabilities scoring at or above grade level in reading and mathematics on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).*

**Analysis:**

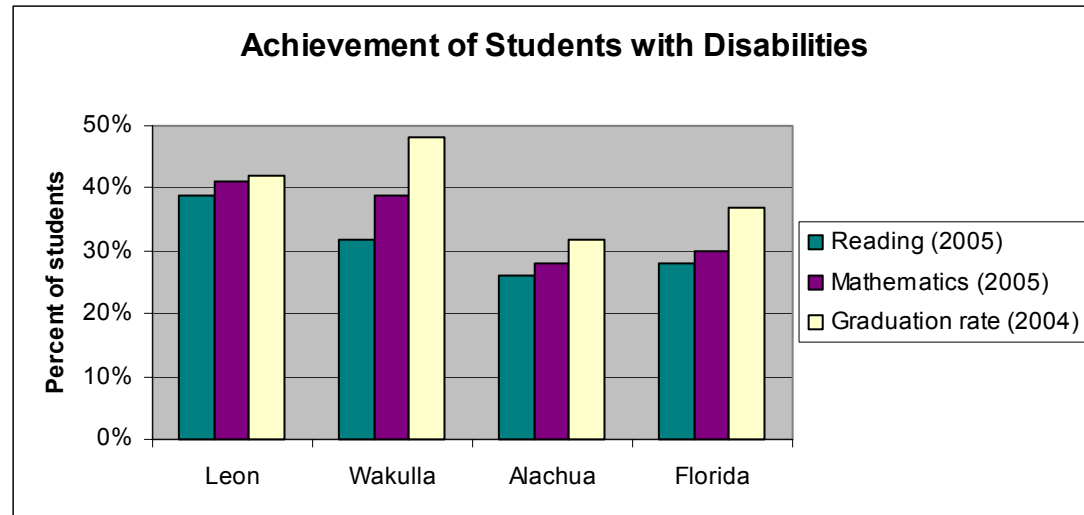
In Leon County, students with disabilities (see table) perform well below the general student population. In 2005, 39% of Leon County students with disabilities were able to read at or above grade level and 41% scored at or above grade level in math. However, students with disabilities expected to earn a regular high school diploma in Leon County Public Schools have considerably higher achievement than their peers in Alachua County and the state as a whole.

**Data source:**

Florida Department of Education, Accountability, Research and Measurement

**Website:**

<http://www.fldoe.org/NCLB/>



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	Leon	Wakulla	Alachua	Florida
Percent of K-12 students with disabilities (2005)	19%	19%	19%	15%
Reading (2005), grades 3-10	39%	32%	26%	28%
Mathematics (2005), grades 3-10	41%	39%	28%	30%
Percent of grades 3-10 students tested (2005)	98%	99%	98%	98%
Graduation rate (2004)	42%	48%	32%	37%

Disabilities include mental retardation, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities. Data include only those students who, according to their individualized educational plan, are expected to receive a regular high school diploma, rather than a special diploma or certificate of completion.