



200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • msde.maryland.gov

TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education

FROM: Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.

DATE: January 26, 2016

SUBJECT: 2015 Graduation Rates

This memorandum provides you with information and highlights of the 2015 graduation rate results for your information. A briefing concerning the 2015 4-year Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rate results will be provided at the State Board meeting on January 26, 2016. The presentation at the board meeting will include state and local education agency level results disaggregated by race and special services.

The Cohort Graduation Rate

The 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) provides a measure of the percent of students that successfully complete high school in 4 years with a regular high school diploma. A 4-year ACGR is defined as the number of students who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for that graduating class. The term “adjusted cohort” means the students who enter grade 9 plus any students who transfer into the cohort in grades 9-12 minus any students who are removed from the cohort because they transferred out, moved out of the country, or were deceased.

In Maryland, the 2015 4-year cohort includes students that were first time ninth graders in 2011-2012 and graduated by and including the summer of 2015. The 4-year cohort graduation rate was first calculated for the class of 2010 and a 5-year trend is available.

The Cohort Dropout Rate

With the capacity to calculate the cohort graduation rate, we also have the ability to calculate a dropout rate for each cohort. This rate includes as dropouts those students who did not graduate after four years but did not return for a fifth year. The 4-year adjusted cohort dropout rate is defined as the number of students who leave school, for any reason other than death, within the four year period divided by the number of students in the adjusted cohort. The 4-year cohort dropout rate was first calculated for the class of 2010 and a 5-year trend is available.

Results

An increasing percentage of Maryland students are graduating on-time each year. The 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate for the Class of 2015 was 86.98 percent, which amounts to a 0.59 percentage point increase from the 2014 rate of 86.39 percent. Since 2010 the percentage of students graduating has increased 5.1%. The Class of 2015 4-year Cohort Dropout Rate has decreased 0.27 percentage points to 8.08 percent.

A number of students in Maryland are not considered dropouts nor are they considered on-time graduates. For example:

- Some students may have been held back one or more grades in high school but do, in the end, successfully receive a regular high school diploma. These students may be captured in the 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate. There were 2.31 percent of students in the class of 2014 which successfully graduated with an additional year of school.
- Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may receive alternative credentials indicating completion of their high school experience.

Table 1 shows the Cohort Graduation Rate information for the Class of 2014 and 2015 by student subgroup populations. For the class of 2014, both the 4-year and a 5-year Cohort Graduation Rates are provided. The 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate for 2015 will be calculated fall 2016.

Table 1

	Class of 2014		Class of 2015
	4 Year Rate	5-Year Rate	4-Year Rate
All Students	86.39	88.70	86.98
Hispanic	77.46	81.40	76.89
American Indian	86.76	89.50	78.66
Asian	95.31	96.43	96.05
African American	80.54	84.40	82.29
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	76.40	77.53	89.77
White	91.91	92.78	92.03
Two or More Races	90.04	91.70	91.05
Special Education	63.45	69.33	63.93
FARMS	77.75	82.11	78.57
ELL	54.06	64.62	49.33

CONCLUSION:

Data will be reported on the Maryland Report Card website at 12:00 p.m. on January 26, 2016. School and central office staff will review, analyze, and interpret this information, share it with their school communities, and use it as a planning tool to guide actions to improve the learning of all students.

ACTION:

For information only. No action required.

**Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate**

LEA	LEA Name	2012			2013			2014			2015			Difference CY to PY
		Cohort Grad Rate	Total Graduates	Total Students										
A	All Public Schools	83.57	56260	67318	84.97	56152	66087	86.39	56062	64897	86.98	55473	63775	0.59
01	Allegany	89.84	619	689	90.09	609	676	91.51	593	648	92.06	638	693	0.55
02	Anne Arundel	85.41	4847	5675	85.57	5006	5850	87.75	4978	5673	88.00	5025	5710	0.25
03	Baltimore County	83.83	6816	8131	86.30	6940	8042	87.63	6935	7914	87.78	6882	7840	0.15
04	Calvert	91.78	1306	1423	91.75	1313	1431	94.09	1290	1371	94.19	1264	1342	0.10
05	Caroline	87.02	342	393	84.15	345	410	81.94	304	371	88.72	354	399	6.78
06	Carroll	95.32	2282	2394	94.41	2146	2273	95.51	2125	2225	95.87	2089	2179	0.36
07	Cecil	84.07	1087	1293	86.69	1036	1195	88.62	1043	1177	87.75	1060	1208	-0.87
08	Charles	89.76	2130	2373	89.79	2066	2301	91.41	2022	2212	92.36	2127	2303	0.95
09	Dorchester	79.20	297	375	83.81	264	315	87.90	276	314	86.20	306	355	-1.70
10	Frederick	92.78	2919	3146	93.31	3014	3230	92.62	2910	3142	93.47	2861	3061	0.85
11	Garrett	94.24	311	330	92.57	299	323	93.19	301	323	93.46	243	260	0.27
12	Harford	88.41	2639	2985	89.52	2724	3043	89.83	2685	2989	89.94	2602	2893	0.11
13	Howard	90.39	3771	4172	93.25	4061	4355	92.85	3885	4184	93.47	3839	4107	0.62
14	Kent	90.23	157	174	88.00	154	175	89.74	140	156	90.80	158	174	1.06
15	Montgomery	87.40	9882	11306	88.34	9970	11286	89.69	10255	11434	89.36	9940	11124	-0.33
16	Prince George's	72.87	7478	10262	74.12	7167	9670	76.59	7323	9561	78.75	7321	9297	2.16
17	Queen Anne's	91.77	580	632	93.49	531	568	93.97	592	630	94.85	571	602	0.88
18	Saint Mary's	87.70	1191	1358	91.50	1131	1236	93.46	1200	1284	94.26	1231	1306	0.80
19	Somerset	83.58	168	201	77.00	164	213	85.57	166	194	87.98	161	183	2.41
20	Talbot	88.80	333	375	91.21	332	364	91.76	323	352	93.25	290	311	1.49
21	Washington	89.76	1507	1679	91.45	1497	1637	91.05	1587	1743	91.16	1599	1754	0.11
22	Wicomico	81.09	892	1100	81.98	805	982	84.44	836	990	83.53	857	1026	-0.91
23	Worcester	93.09	525	564	90.86	477	525	91.15	453	497	93.10	486	522	1.95
30	Baltimore City	66.49	4181	6288	68.50	4101	5987	69.65	3840	5513	69.52	3540	5092	-0.13
32	SEED										85.29	29	34	

REPORT TO THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Class of 2015
Graduation Rate
Dropout Rate**

**Dr. Henry Johnson, Interim Deputy State Superintendent
Chandra Haislet, Director of Accountability**

**Division of Curriculum,
Assessment and Accountability
January 26, 2016**

What is a “Cohort”?

❑ Graduation Cohort

- A group of students who begin as first-time ninth graders in a particular school year
 - Adjusted by student transfers or death

❑ Drop-out Cohort

- Students who terminate formal education during high school

❑ Class of 2015 Cohort

- First-time 9th graders in 2012



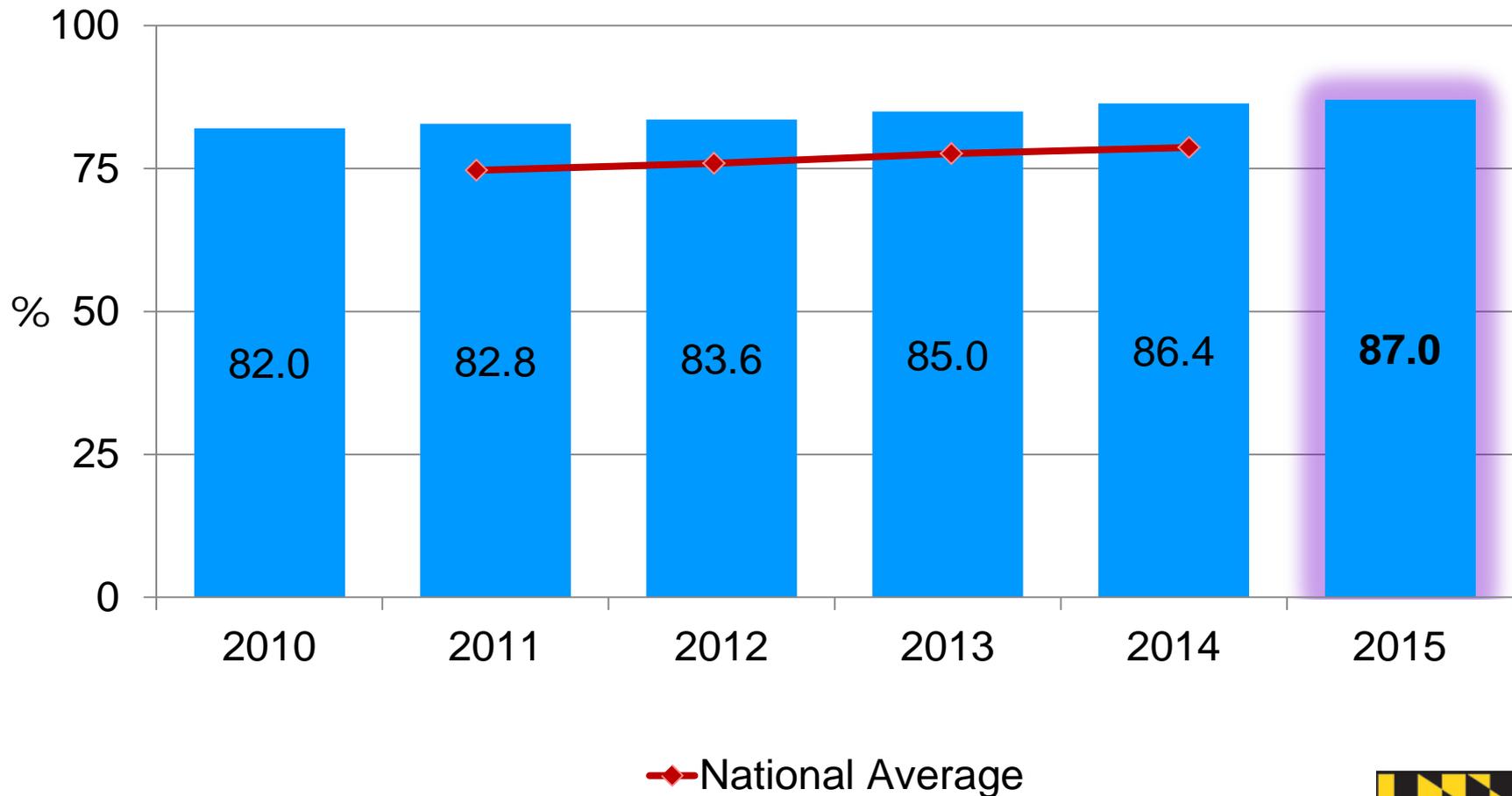
Graduation Rate

- Graduation rates improved statewide for the Class of 2015 compared with Class of 2014.
- Graduation rates improved at 19 LEAs in 2015 over 2014.
- Maryland continues to perform above the national average.

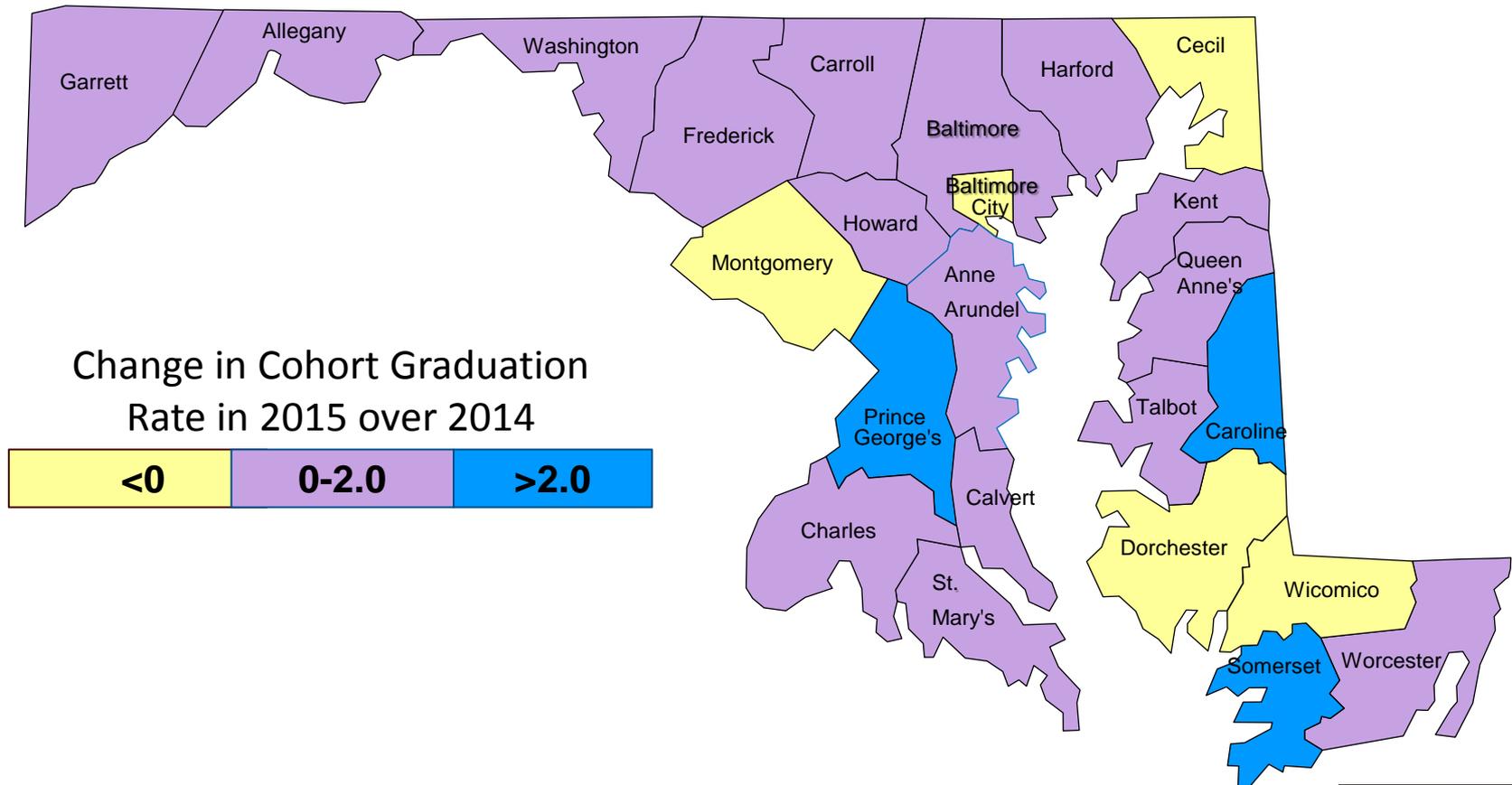
Dropout Rate

- Maryland's dropout rate is at an all-time low

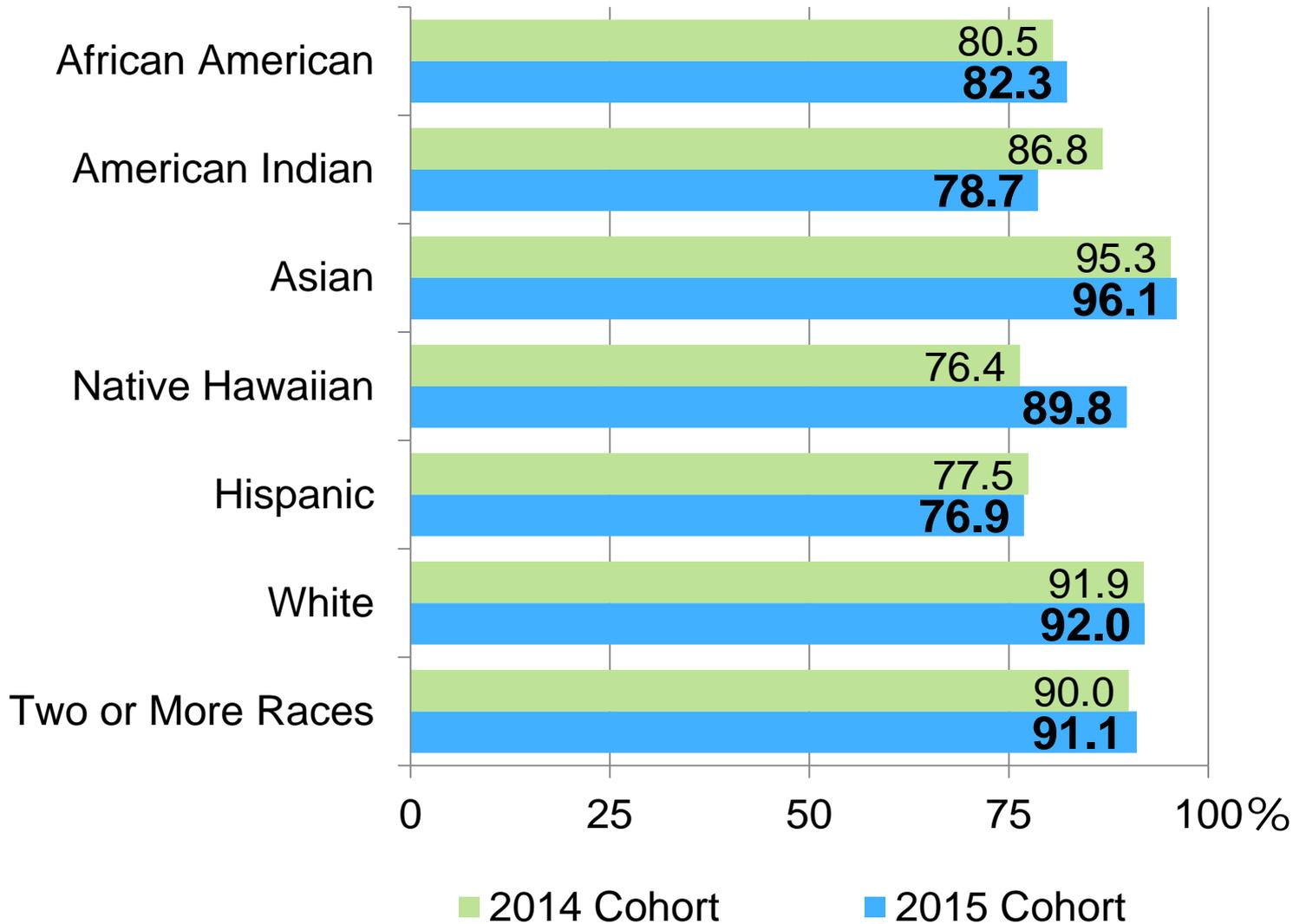
An Increasing Percentage of Students Graduate On Time Each Year



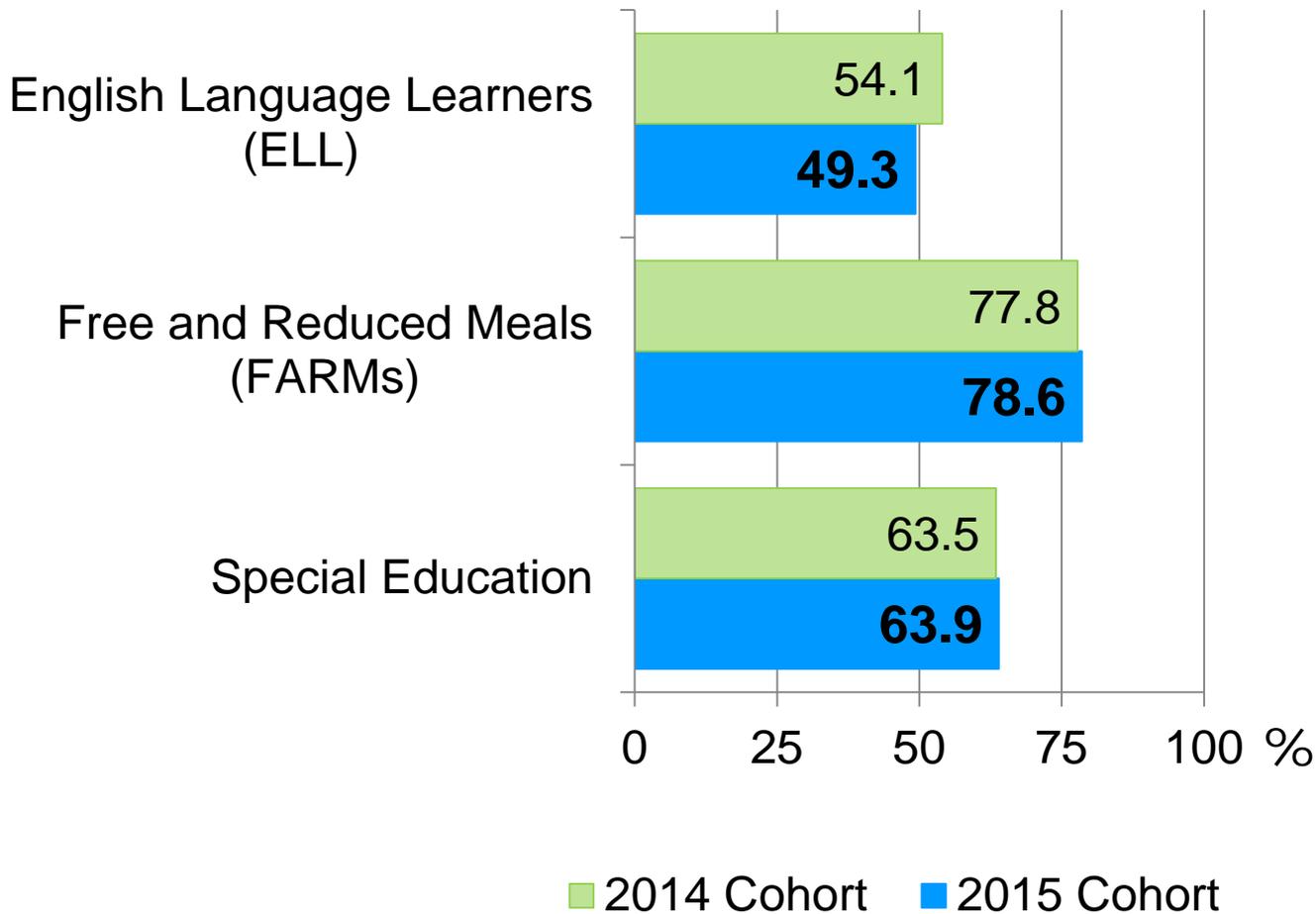
19 LEAs Achieved a Higher Cohort Graduation Rate in 2015



Cohort Graduation Rate Improved in all but 2 Racial Categories



Cohort Graduation Rate Improved for Special Education and Free and Reduced Meal Students



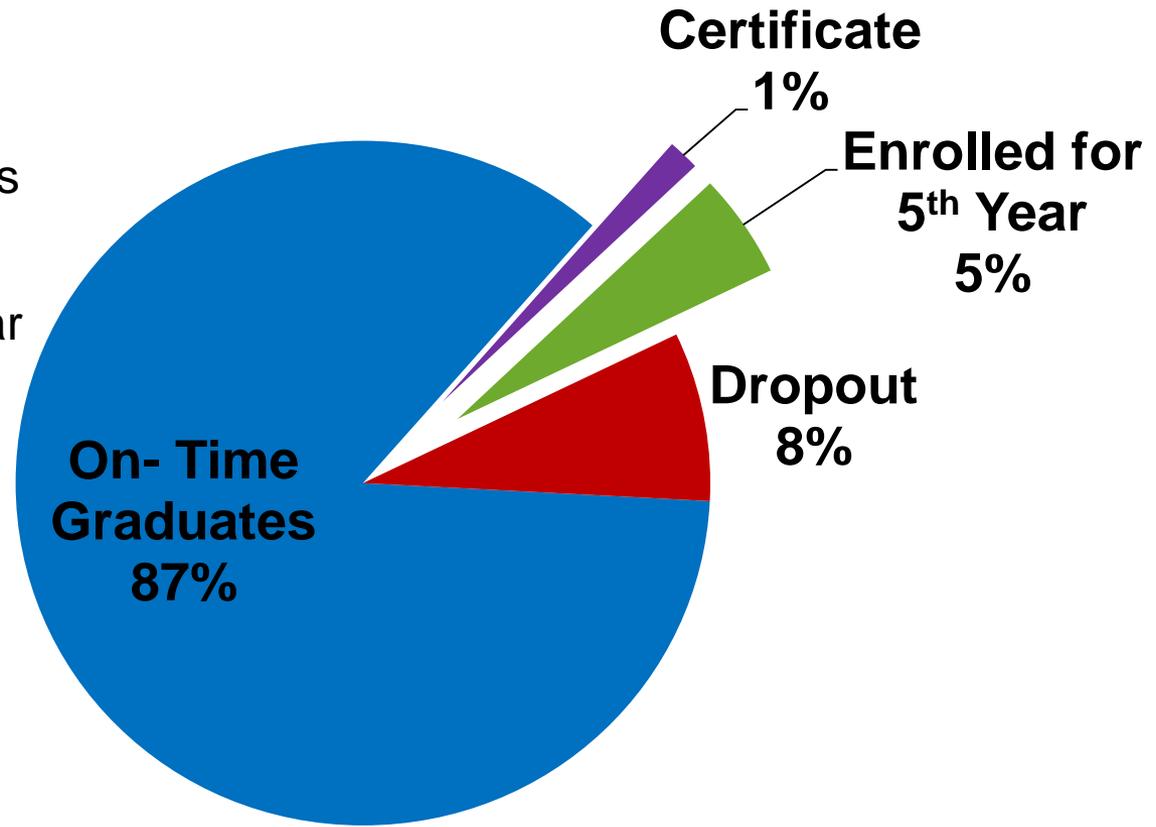
87% of Maryland Students
Graduated on Time.
What About the Other 13%?



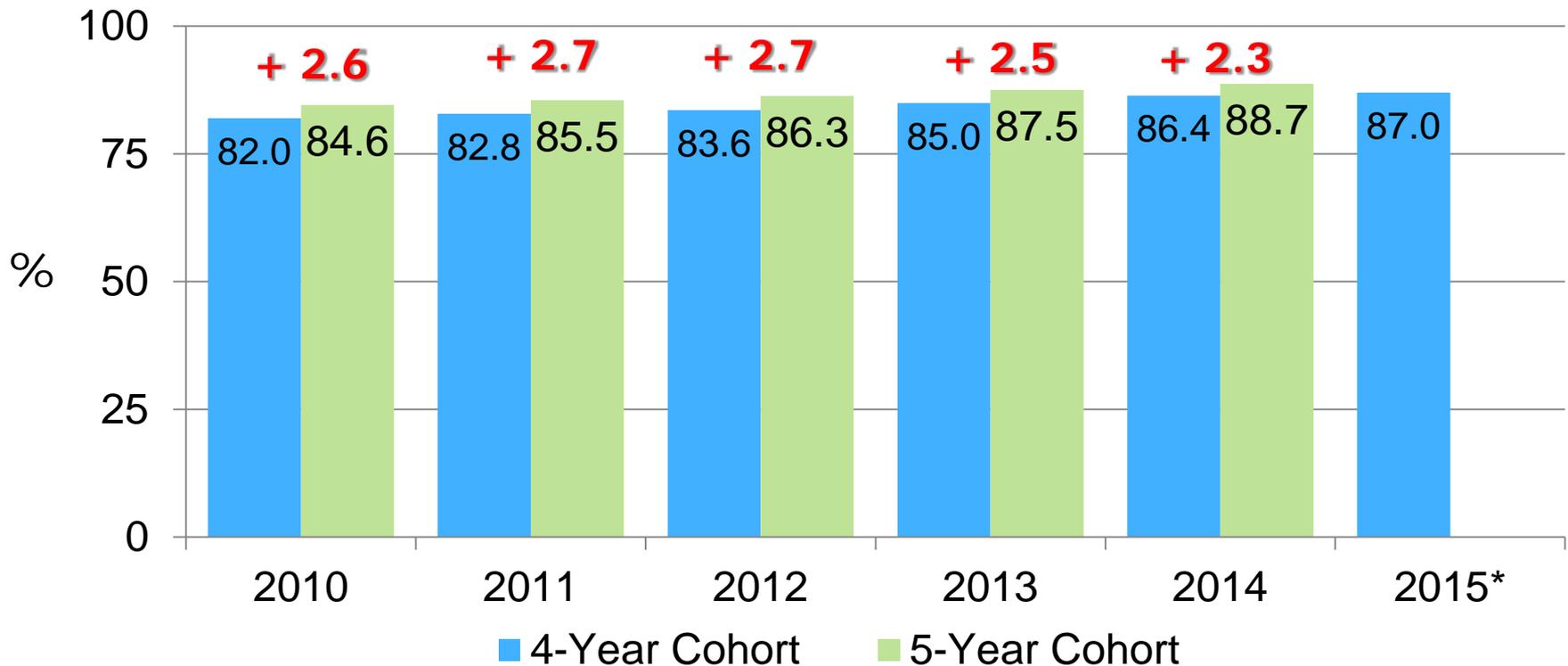
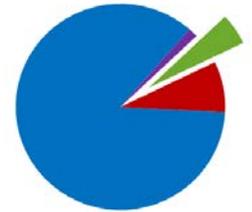
Some Students Earn Certificates of Completion or Need Additional Time to Graduate

Class of 2015

- On- Time Graduates
- Certificate
- Enrolled for 5th Year
- Dropout

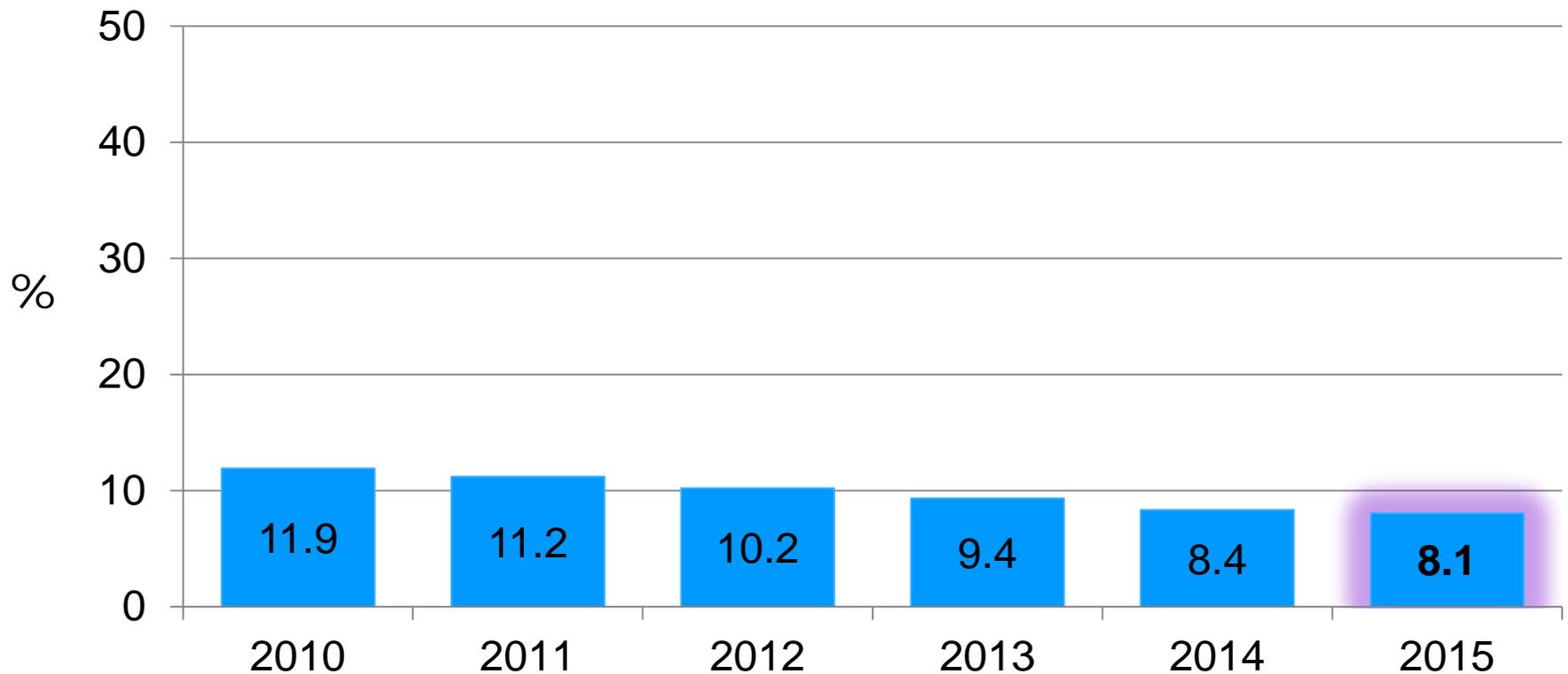


Roughly Half of Students Enrolled for a 5th Year Graduate



* 2015 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Available Fall of 2016

Maryland's Dropout Rate Has Been Declining and is at an All-Time Low



MSDE is Addressing Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate Challenges

- ❑ English Language Learner Task Force
- ❑ Technical Assistance provided to LEA Accountability staff

Local Education Agency Presentation Prince Georges County

