

CRCSD Graduation Rates Rise Again, Surpassing State Growth

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA — The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) is celebrating significant growth in student achievement following the release of graduation data from the Iowa Department of Education. The district's four-year graduation rate has climbed to 81.98%, up 2.91% from the previous year and up nearly 5 percentage points from 2023 (79.07% in 2024 and 77.53% in 2023).

This almost 3% growth in the graduation rate far exceeds the state of Iowa's overall 0.5% rise. This upward trend highlights the district's success in closing the achievement gap and moving closer to the statewide average of 88.8%.

The district saw strong overall gains, with progress evident across student groups. Notable gains include:

- English Language Learners (ELL): Improved by 7.6% (from 63.8% to 71.4%), while the state level declined 1.2%.
- Students with Disabilities (IEP): Increased by 6.3% (from 52.3% to 58.6%), significantly outperforming the state's growth of 1.6% in this category.
- Low Socio-Economic Status: Rose by 3.9% (from 69.4% to 73.3%), nearly quadruple the state's growth rate.
- Black/African American Students: Improved by 9.2%, rising from 71.3% last year to 80.5% this year, 2.2% above the state average.
- Hispanic/Latino Students: Grew by 2.5%, climbing from 75.3% to 77.8%.

These results reflect the district's focus on expanding access, strengthening supports, and creating high-quality learning experiences while maintaining high expectations for every student. By using data proactively, CRCSD educators are able to identify when students need additional support and respond early to ensure they stay on track. Together, these efforts are contributing to strong outcomes overall, with progress evident across student groups.

"These numbers represent more than just statistics; they represent hundreds of individual student success stories," shared Superintendent Dr. Tawana Lannin. *"We are focused on ensuring high academic achievement for every student. Graduation is the result of intentional support, high expectations, and quality instruction year after year. By leveraging innovative programs, strategic interventions, rigorous coursework, real-world experiences, and strong systems of support, our educators are ensuring every learner is equipped, empowered, engaged, and on a clear path to excel."*

The district also saw a notable rise in its five-year graduation rate, which tracks students who successfully complete their graduation requirements with one additional year of support. The figure climbed to 84.13%, up from 81.26% the previous year. Additionally, the district's dropout rate decreased by 0.57%.

"As we increase the number of students who graduate each year, we increase the number of young people who walk across the stage prepared for life. Whether students are heading to a four-year university, entering a technical trade, or stepping directly into the workforce, a high school diploma is an essential foundation for opportunity and long-term success," adds Superintendent Lannin. *"This progress reflects the impact of our academic programs and the collective commitment of our educators, staff, and families. While we are encouraged by these results, our work continues as we remain focused on ensuring every student graduates. Together, we are helping to build a stronger Cedar Rapids, one graduate at a time."*

Official data regarding these graduation trends is available on the Iowa Department of Education website.

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About Cedar Rapids Community School District

Cedar Rapids Community School District is dedicated to providing a high-quality, equitable education that prepares all students for success. With a commitment to safe and secure learning environments, engaging community partnerships, and fiscal responsibility, CRCSD serves as a pillar of educational excellence in the community.