

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Some good news has been reported for the nation's graduation rate: It continues to increase.



According to the National Center for Education Statistics, graduation rates are increasing overall and by subgroup.

Overall, for the 2014-15 school year, 83.2 percent of students completed high school in four years.

This is the third year in a row that public schools have surpassed the percentage from the previous year. For the 2013-14 school year, 82 percent completed in the four-year period and for the 2012-13 school year, it was 80 percent.

The 2012-13 statistic was praised widely as the rate was in the 70s for much of the 1990s.

The Center for Education Statistics broke down the 2015 graduation rate by state and Ohio was pretty much in the middle – 80.7 percent.

States at either end of the spectrum were Iowa (90.8 percent) and New Mexico (68.6 percent). (The District of Columbia was lowest, with a 68.5 percent graduation rate.)

Another area to note is how subgroups performed, and the graduate rate of students with disabilities shines.

For the 2014-15 school year, that group's rate rose to 64.6 percent, up from 63.1 percent the previous year. That group's rate has increased every year since 2010-11.

For students who will be graduating in 2018 and beyond, the requirements are changing and students are gaining more options for meeting them.

In addition to completing a set number of credits in English, health, math, P.E., science, social studies and an elective, as well as credits in some other areas of study, students will need to choose to either:

- earn 18 points on seven end-of-course state tests; or
- receive an industry credential and earn a 13 on a work-readiness test (WorkKeys); or
- sit for the ACT or SAT college-readiness test.



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The new graduation requirements are designed to promote career-readiness as well as academic instruction.

For specifics on the requirements, go to <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-Graduation-Requirements/Graduation-Requirements-2018-and-Beyond/Ohios-Options-for-a-High-School-Diploma>.

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