

Identifying Overachievers

Graduation Rates for Class of 2006

District	Graduation Rate, 2006		Expectations Index (Actual minus Expected)
	Actual	Expected	
Warren Township*	81 th	60 th	+21
Texarkana ISD*	79	59	+21
Fort Smith	84	66	+18
Euclid City*	78	61	+17
Stockton Unified*	77	60	+17
Yuba City USD	85	69	+16
Steubenville City	79	63	+16
Merced Union*	78	62	+15
United ISD	72	57	+15
Leon County*	66	52	+15
Sharyland ISD*	80	65	+15
Guilford County	68	53	+14
Clintondale Schools	72	58	+14
Phenix City*	69	56	+13
Wayne Township	73	60	+13
Yuma Union High School	72	60	+13
Thornion Township HSD 215	76	64	+13
Hillborough County	63	50	+12
San Angelo ISD*	77	65	+12
Flagstaff Unified	75	63	+12
Newport-Mesa Unified	75	63	+12
Peduch Independent	75	63	+11
Des Moines Independent	79	68	+11
Tuloso-Midway ISD	80	69	+11
Monrovia Unified	77	66	+11
Cumberland County	65	55	+10
Mesa Unified	67	56	+10
Portland*	74	63	+10
Visalia Unified	72	62	+10
Tucson Unified	67	57	+10
East Baton Rouge	59	50	+10
Riverbank Unified	73	64	+10
Waterbury	69	59	+10

An EPE Research Center analysis identified a pool of school districts matching the profile of the nation's largest urban systems and then singled out those demonstrating the highest graduation rates and strongest growth, relative to expectations based on district characteristics. Thirty-three of these big-city peer districts posted 2006 graduation rates at least 10 percentage points higher than anticipated, while 27 districts from across the country surpassed expected graduation-rate improvements between 1996 and 2006 by 10 points or more.

Ten-Year Trend in Graduation Rates 1996 to 2006

District	Percentage-Point Change		Expectations Index (Actual minus Expected)
	Actual	Expected	
Stockton Unified*	+27	-1	+29
Sharyland ISD*	+32	+4	+28
Phenix City*	+30	+3	+28
Texarkana ISD*	+31	+5	+26
Warren Township*	+24	-2	+26
Cincinnati	+25	+2	+23
San Marcos CISD	+25	+5	+21
Lafayette Parish	+20	+4	+16
Opelika City	+17	+2	+15
Merced Union*	+14	-1	+15
Calhoun County ISD	+19	+5	+14
Gilroy Unified	+14	-1	+14
Galveston ISD	+19	+4	+14
San Angelo ISD*	+20	+6	+14
Temple ISD	+19	+5	+14
St. Lucie County	+11	-2	+13
Euclid City*	+15	+2	+13
Leon County*	+12	0	+12
Portland*	+20	+8	+12
Oklahoma City	+13	+2	+11
Putnam City	+12	+2	+10
Marysville Joint Unified	+11	+1	+10
Warren City	+13	+3	+10
Kansas City	+9	-1	+10
Wichita	+10	0	+10
Riverside Unified	+10	0	+10
Austin ISD	+14	+5	+10

* District exceeds expectations for both 2006 graduation rate and change in rate from 1996 to 2006.