

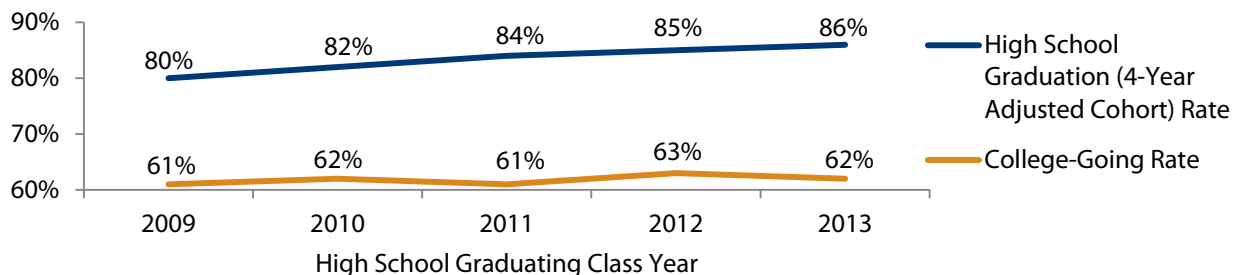
The Maine Department of Education (DOE) and the Mitchell Institute work with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to compile and distribute information on college enrollment for Maine public high schools. Each school receives a detailed report on its graduates' college-going patterns. The purpose of this Data Brief is to provide context for schools in interpreting their reports, and to present the aggregate information more broadly. It presents statistics at the state and superintendent region levels on recent Maine high school graduates' college enrollment, persistence to the second year of college, and college degree completion.

## College-Going

The proportion of Maine public high school graduates enrolling directly in college has increased from 57% of the class of 2006 to 62% of the class of 2013. Among college-going students, 72% enrolled in a Maine institution in 2013—up from 67% in 2006—and 28% enrolled in institutions outside Maine. Three-quarters of college-going students now enroll in four-year institutions, down from 79% in 2006, while the proportion matriculating into two-year institutions grew from 21% in 2006 to 25% in 2013. Roughly two-thirds of college-going Maine high school graduates enroll in public higher education institutions, while the other one-third enroll in private colleges and universities. Since 2009, Maine's stable college-going rate has coincided with a steady increase in high school graduation rates, as shown below.

**Figure 1: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation  
State of Maine**

	High School Graduating Class Year							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total in the class	14,187	14,338	14,191	13,899	14,114	13,635	13,255	13,174
Enrolled in college	8,076 <b>57%</b>	8,485 <b>59%</b>	8,733 <b>62%</b>	8,426 <b>61%</b>	8,690 <b>62%</b>	8,263 <b>61%</b>	8,287 <b>63%</b>	8,179 <b>62%</b>
4-year college	79%	79%	76%	76%	76%	77%	76%	75%
2-year college	21%	21%	24%	24%	24%	23%	24%	25%
Maine college	67%	69%	71%	69%	70%	70%	71%	72%
College outside Maine	33%	31%	29%	31%	30%	30%	29%	28%
Public institution	68%	68%	66%	65%	65%	67%	67%	67%
Private institution	32%	32%	34%	35%	35%	33%	33%	33%

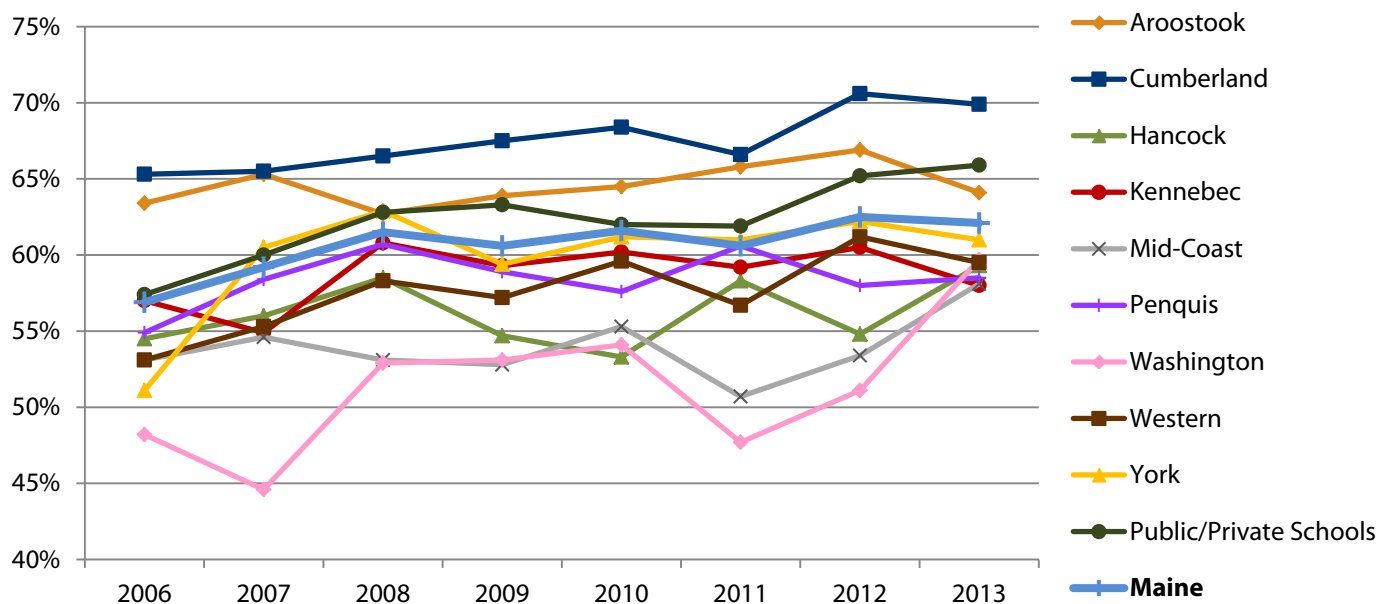


## College-Going by Superintendent Region

Among Maine’s nine Superintendent regions, Aroostook and Cumberland consistently have above-average college-going rates, as do the publicly-funded private high schools. The Kennebec, Penquis, and York regions have college-going rates close to the Maine average. The Hancock, Mid-Coast, Washington, and Western regions have below-average college-going rates. There was less regional variation in 2013 than in earlier years, as shown in Figure 2. College-going rates at Maine schools vary widely, as demonstrated in Figure 3.

**Figure 2: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation  
Maine Superintendent Regions**

Superintendent Region	High School Graduating Class Year							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Aroostook County	63.4%	65.3%	62.7%	63.9%	64.5%	65.8%	66.9%	64.1%
Cumberland County	65.3%	65.5%	66.5%	67.5%	68.4%	66.6%	70.6%	69.9%
Hancock County	54.5%	56.0%	58.5%	54.7%	53.3%	58.3%	54.8%	59.3%
Kennebec Valley	57.0%	54.9%	60.8%	59.3%	60.2%	59.2%	60.5%	58.0%
Mid-Coast	53.1%	54.6%	53.1%	52.8%	55.3%	50.7%	53.4%	58.1%
Penquis	54.9%	58.4%	60.7%	58.9%	57.6%	60.6%	58.0%	58.5%
Washington County <sup>1</sup>	48.2%	44.6%	52.9%	53.1%	54.1%	47.7%	51.1%	59.7%
Western Maine	53.1%	55.3%	58.3%	57.2%	59.6%	56.7%	61.2%	59.5%
York County	51.1%	60.5%	62.9%	59.4%	61.2%	61.0%	62.2%	61.0%
Public/Private Schools <sup>2</sup>	57.4%	60.0%	62.8%	63.3%	62.0%	61.9%	65.2%	65.9%
<b>Maine</b>	<b>56.9%</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>61.5%</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>62.1%</b>



**Figure 3: Average College-Going Rates  
Maine Schools**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
5 lowest Maine schools	39%	40%	44%	40%	41%	38%	40%	43%
5 highest Maine schools	81%	84%	84%	86%	81%	83%	88%	84%

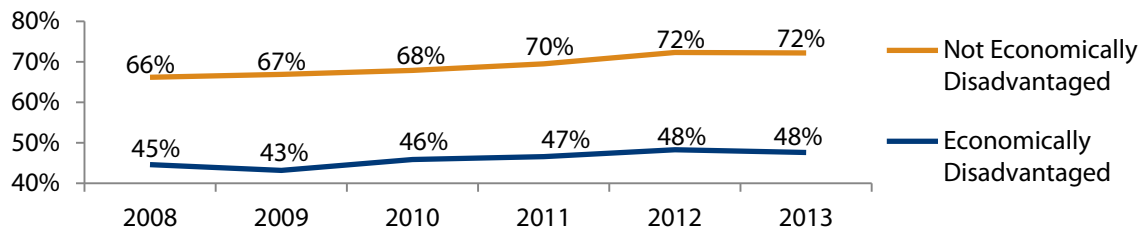
## Student Subgroups

This year for the first time, college enrollment data are also available disaggregated based on students' economic status, gender, race/ethnicity, and academic performance. As shown in the following charts, the biggest disparities in college-going are between economically disadvantaged students and their higher-income peers, and those who did and did not meet state academic standards in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The Appendix on page 7 shows student counts by subgroup, and includes a chart comparing the latest college-going and persistence rates for all the subgroups.

### College-Going by Economic Status

Students are considered economically disadvantaged if their family income qualifies them for free or reduced-price school meals. Economically disadvantaged Maine students are much less likely to go to college than their higher-income peers, and the gap is growing—from 2008 to 2013, the gap rose from 21 to 24 percentage points (see Figure 4). At the same time, the proportion of economically disadvantaged students is increasing. The number of economically disadvantaged Maine high school graduates grew from 3,078 in the class of 2008 to 5,418 in 2013—from 22% to 41% of their graduating classes.

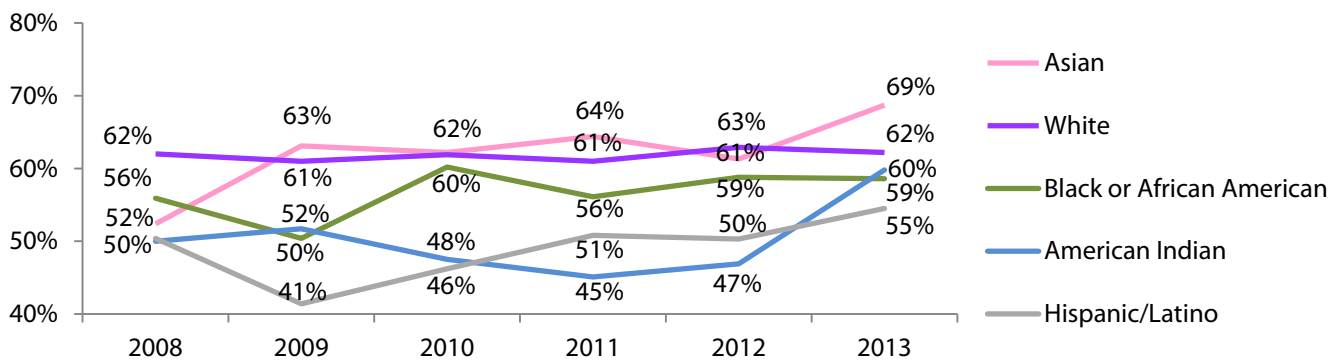
**Figure 4: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation by Economic Status**



### College-Going by Race and Ethnicity

White students, the vast majority of Maine high school graduates, have college-going rates equal to the state average. From 2008 to 2013, the number of nonwhite high school graduates in Maine increased from 711 to 995 students—and from 5% to 9% of their high school graduating classes. While college-going rates have consistently been below average among American Indian, Black, and Hispanic/Latino students, Asian students' college-going has been at or above the Maine average since 2009, as shown in Figure 5.

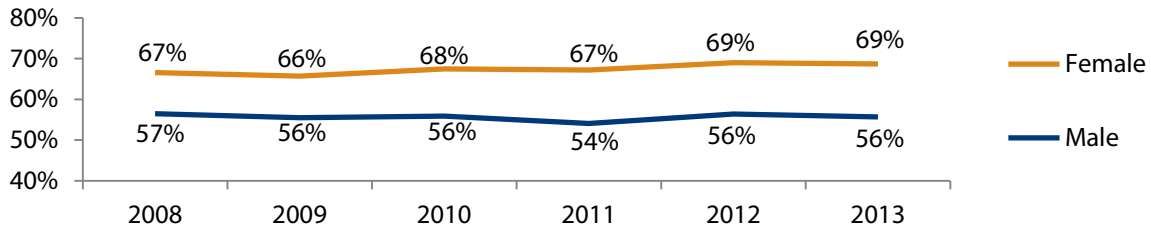
**Figure 5: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation by Race/Ethnicity**



## College-Going by Gender

Female students graduating from high school in Maine are more likely to enroll in college than are male students. College-going among female graduates increased from 67% in 2008 to 69% in 2013, while male college-going declined slightly from 57% to 56%.

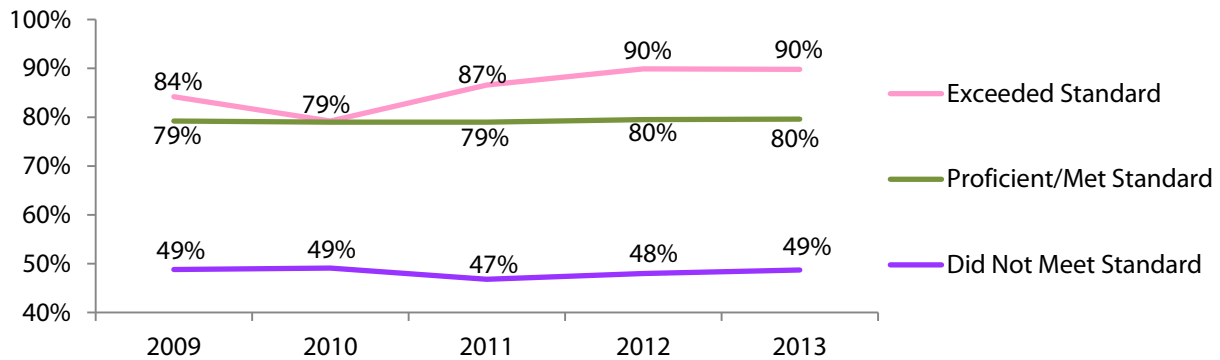
**Figure 6: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation by Gender**



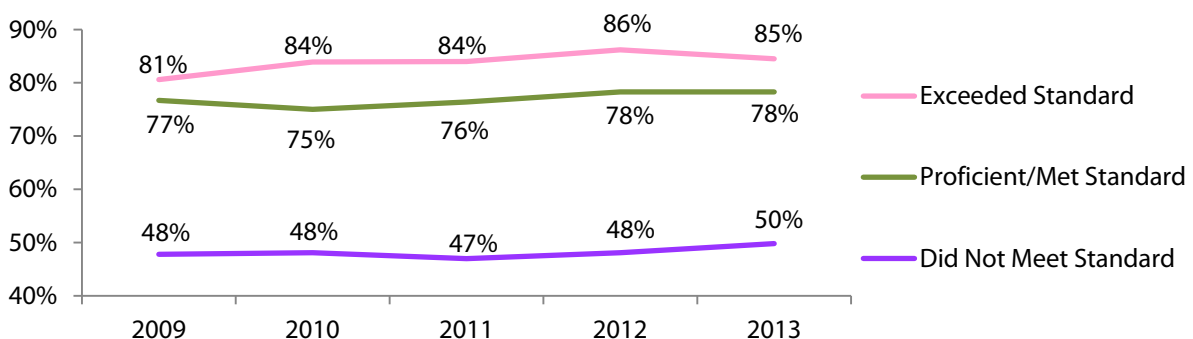
## College-Going by Academic Performance

The NSC also now reports college-going by academic performance, as measured by scores on the Maine High School Assessment. Students who meet or exceed the state math and reading standards in 11<sup>th</sup> grade are much more likely to enroll in college than are those who do not meet the standards, as shown in Figures 7 and 8. For 2013, the top college-going rate of any of the student subgroups is 90% among students who exceeded the high school math standard, followed by students who exceeded the reading standard (85%).

**Figure 7: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation by High School Math Proficiency**



**Figure 8: College-Going in the Fall Semester after High School Graduation by High School Reading Proficiency**



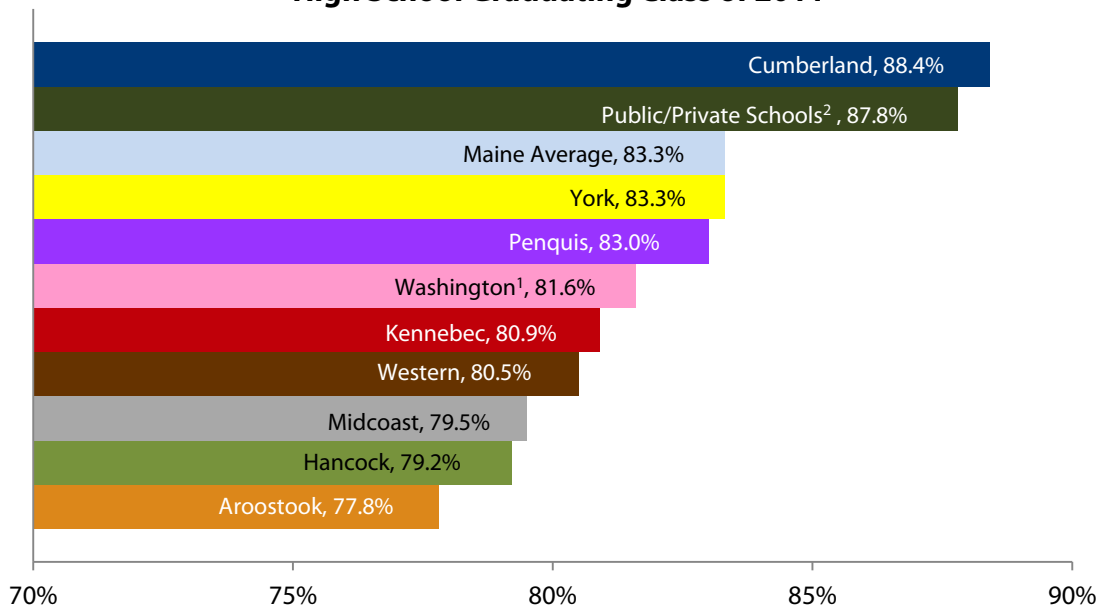
# College Persistence

The National Student Clearinghouse reports college persistence when students return to college at any institution for a second year, as a percentage of those who enrolled in college within one year after graduating high school. Statewide, freshman to sophomore persistence for the graduating classes of 2006 through 2011 averages 84%. College persistence varies considerably for students from different regions of Maine, as shown in Figure 9. The Appendix chart on page 7 shows college persistence for student subgroups, which ranges from 97% among students who exceeded high school academic standards in math to 74% among economically disadvantaged students.

**Figure 9: Freshman-to-Sophomore College Persistence  
Maine Superintendent Regions**

Superintendent Region	High School Graduating Class Year					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Aroostook County	79.5%	83.8%	84.1%	83.9%	81.9%	77.8%
Cumberland County	87.9%	89.2%	88.2%	88.7%	89.2%	88.4%
Hancock County	81.5%	81.2%	74.7%	78.3%	80.6%	79.2%
Kennebec Valley	82.5%	84.6%	86.3%	82.2%	84.4%	80.9%
Mid-Coast	83.7%	86.9%	83.3%	80.0%	83.3%	79.5%
Penquis	82.3%	81.5%	82.1%	81.6%	83.8%	83.0%
Washington County <sup>1</sup>	83.3%	82.2%	78.7%	76.6%	71.4%	81.6%
Western Maine	79.3%	81.1%	83.6%	83.2%	82.9%	80.5%
York County	87.0%	85.4%	81.9%	82.9%	84.5%	83.3%
Public/Private Schools <sup>2</sup>	86.2%	83.6%	86.2%	83.8%	81.7%	87.8%
<b>Maine</b>	<b>84.1%</b>	<b>84.7%</b>	<b>84.4%</b>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>84.5%</b>	<b>83.3%</b>

**High School Graduating Class of 2011**

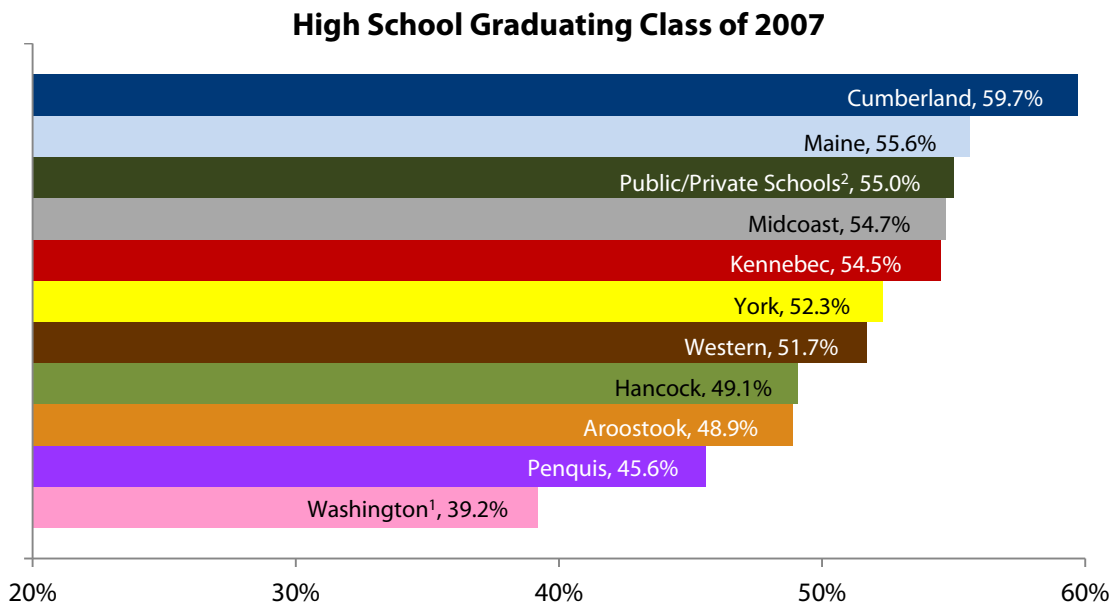


# College Completion

College graduation rates are often reported as the proportion of entering students earning a degree within 150% of normal program time (or six years for a baccalaureate degree). Among Maine high school graduates from the class of 2007 who enrolled in college by 2011, 55.6% completed a degree by 2013. Degree completion among those who enrolled in college immediately after high school graduation was 65% by 2013. Students from rural regions are less likely than those from Cumberland County to complete college, as shown in Figure 9. College completion rates for students by demographic and academic characteristics are not yet available.

**Figure 9: College Degree Completion within Six Years  
Maine Superintendent Regions**

Superintendent Region	High School Graduation Year	
	2006	2007
Aroostook County	51.5%	48.9%
Cumberland County	56.9%	59.7%
Hancock County	50.3%	49.1%
Kennebec Valley	51.9%	54.5%
Mid-Coast	49.6%	54.7%
Penquis	48.7%	45.6%
Washington County <sup>1</sup>	40.8%	39.2%
Western Maine	48.6%	51.7%
York County	53.6%	52.3%
Public/Private Schools <sup>2</sup>	56.5%	55.0%
<b>Maine</b>	<b>52.3%</b>	<b>55.6%</b>

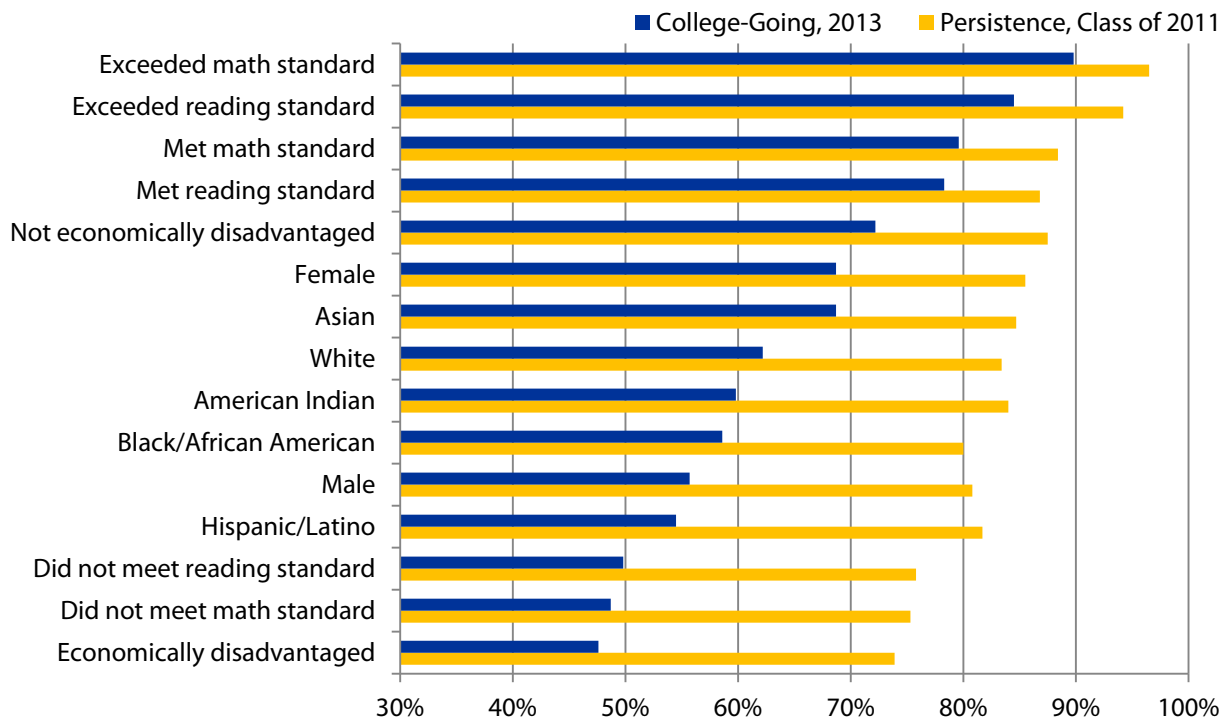


# Appendix

## Student Counts by Subgroup

	High School Graduating Class					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total in the class	14,191	13,899	14,113	13,634	13,255	13,173
Economically disadvantaged	3,078	3,665	4,075	5,327	5,425	5,418
Not economically disadvantaged	11,113	10,234	10,038	8,307	7,830	7,755
Female	7,101	6,983	6,896	6,743	6,397	6,511
Male	7,090	6,916	7,217	6,891	6,858	6,662
American Indian or Native Alaskan	74	87	99	102	81	92
Asian	227	214	249	188	240	284
Black/African American	281	268	294	278	301	319
Hispanic/Latino	129	111	145	189	149	191
White	13,480	13,219	13,326	12,789	12,418	12,178
Two+ races; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	88	66	109
Exceeded state math standard	N/A	665	595	524	557	588
Met state math standard	N/A	5,254	5,162	5,578	5,823	5,458
Did not meet state math standard	N/A	7,086	7,003	6,854	6,141	6,348
Unreported	N/A	894	1,353	687	734	779
Exceeded state reading standard	N/A	1,147	1,221	1,328	1,120	1,127
Met state reading standard	N/A	5,550	5,343	5,077	5,377	4,896
Did not meet state reading standard	N/A	6,179	6,080	6,517	6,030	6,374
Unreported	N/A	1,023	1,469	712	728	776

### Comparing Student Subgroups: College-Going and Persistence



## Data Notes

The National Student Clearinghouse is a college enrollment and degree verification service with records for more than 3,600 institutions of higher education. The NSC is the primary provider of data on two-year and four-year college degree program enrollment to school districts, colleges, foundations, and state and federal governments. 92% of college students in the U.S. attend colleges and universities that report enrollment to the NSC. Many U.S. high schools pay to participate in the Student Tracker program, but the Maine Department of Education covers the cost for all Maine public high schools to receive these reports, using student data the schools have already reported to DOE.

The source for Maine high school graduation rates is Maine Department of Education, [www.maine.gov/education/gradrates/gradrates.html](http://www.maine.gov/education/gradrates/gradrates.html)

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to Bill Hurwitch, Director, Statewide Longitudinal Data System and his team at the Maine Department of Education.

The authors of this report are Lisa Plimpton, Mitchell Institute Research Director, and Research Interns Kelsey Freeman and Abby Roy of Bowdoin College.

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<sup>1</sup> NSC data for 2006 through 2012 do not include Washington County Community College enrollments, primarily affecting Washington County figures for those years. WCCC joined the National Student Clearinghouse in 2013, and the Washington County college-going rate jumped by nine percentage points.

<sup>2</sup> “Public/Private Schools” is the average of Maine’s eleven 60% publicly-funded private high schools: Erskine Academy, Foxcroft Academy, Fryeburg Academy, George Stevens Academy, Lee Academy, Lincoln Academy, John Bapst Memorial High School, Maine Central Institute, Maine School of Science and Mathematics (state-operated), Thornton Academy, and Washington Academy.