

DESCRIPTION

This indicator describes dropout rates for students attending high school in Ramsey County. This information is valuable, as it describes who is dropping out and from which schools, and potentially why students are not finishing high school. Efforts to reduce high school dropout rates are important because it is well known that youth who don't have a high school degree have a more difficult time finding employment.

HOW ARE WE DOING

Between 2003 and 2016, Ramsey County school districts saw a decrease in dropout rates of about 1.2 percent, although there has been fluctuation over time. The average rate over 13 years is 8.4 percent, with the lowest rate occurring in 2011 at 6.9 percent. Compared to state levels, Ramsey County has consistently higher dropout rates. During the same 13-year period, the Minnesota dropout rate decreased 2.7 percent. The Minnesota average rate was 5.8 percent, with the lowest rate also occurring in 2011 at 4.8 percent.¹

DISPARITIES

There are higher dropout rates among African-American students, English language learners, Hispanic students, and students who utilize the Free and Reduced Price Lunch program compared to other students. Males are more likely to drop out of high school than females.²

RISK FACTORS

An attendance rate below 89 percent for a school year increases the likelihood that a student will drop out.³

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions provides multiple services from prevention to resources for residents interested in finishing their high school education. Workforce Solutions provides career counselor interns in four of Saint Paul's public schools to mentor students on their education and career options. These mentors work with students directly by supporting the efforts of the schools' professional guidance counselors. Ramsey County also provides GED services through partnering with community non-profits that assist residents in achieving their GED. For nearly five years, Ramsey County has provided culturally specific employment services to communities experiencing significant outcome disparities. These services directed at African American and American Indian MFIP families have been successful at improving literacy for children and improving parent engagement in education and increasing parent earnings which are each key risk factors associated with students dropping out of high school.

Information to note

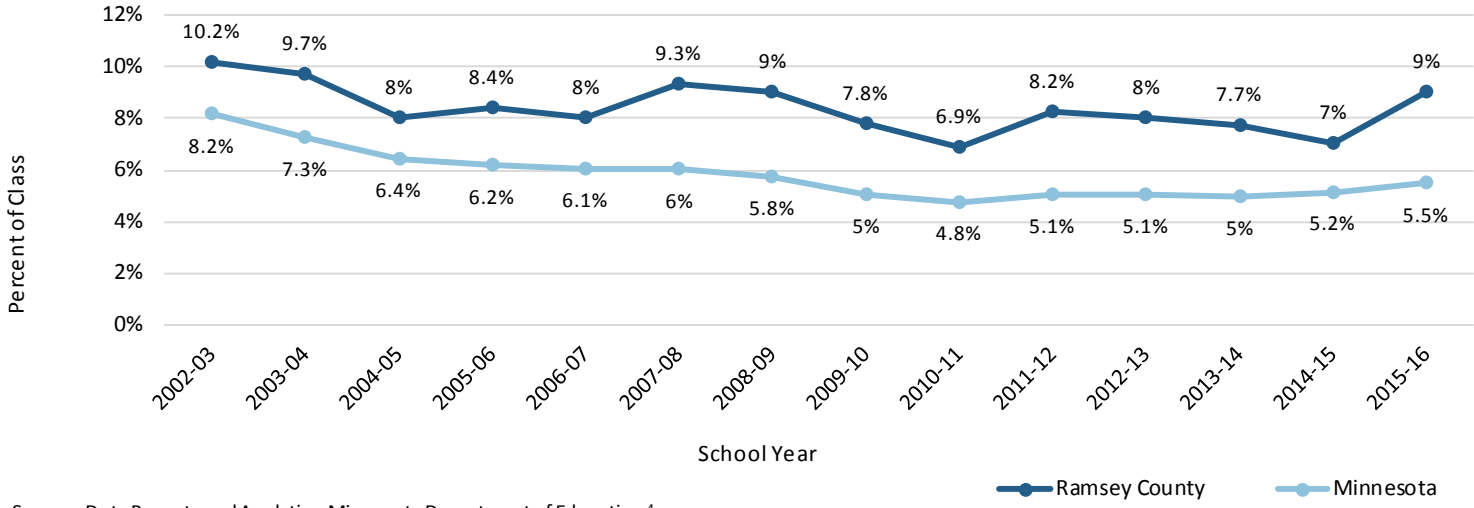
- Between 2003 and 2016, Ramsey County's high school dropout rate decreased from 10.2% to 9%.
- An attendance rate below 89% for a school year increases the likelihood that a student will drop out.

¹ Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

² Minnesota Report Card. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://rc.education.state.mn.us/#>. Accessed

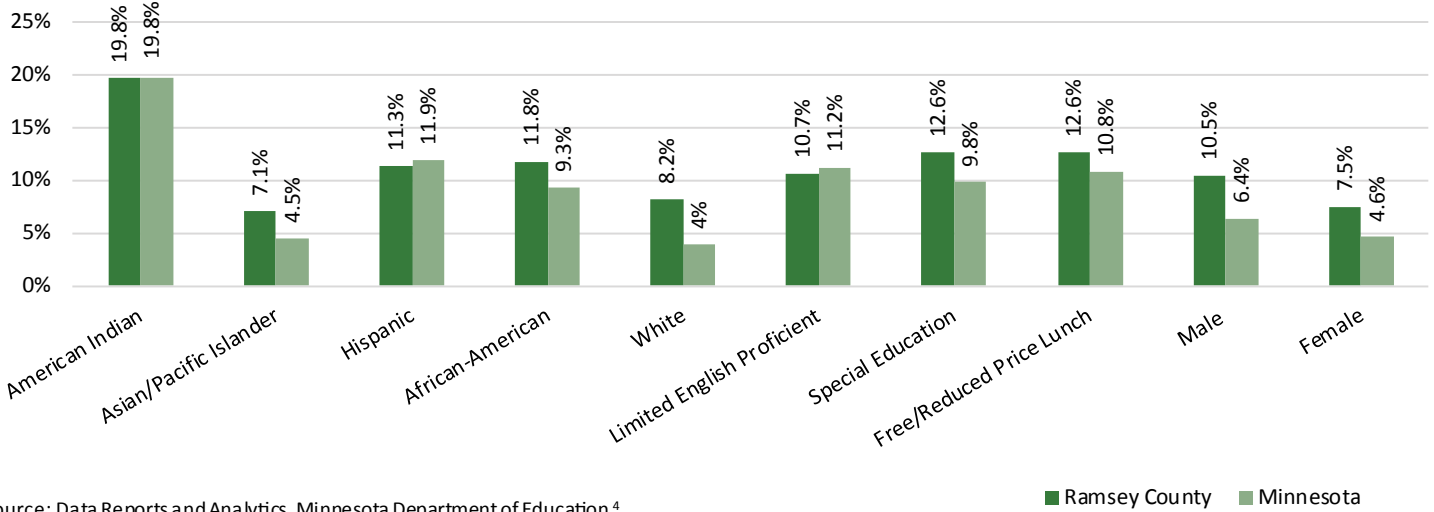
³ Chang, H. & Romero, M. Present, engaged, and accounted for. The critical importance of addressing chronic absence in the early grades. 2016. Columbia University: National center for Children in Poverty. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_837.html. Accessed June 13, 2017.

Four-Year High School Drop Out Rates



Source: Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education.⁴

School Dropout Rates by Select Populations, 2015-16



Source: Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education.⁴

⁴ Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>. Accessed June 13, 2017.