

Comparison of Compulsory School Ages and Dropout Rates on State-by-State Basis

State	Start age*	End age*	Graduation Rate**	Dropout Rate
Alabama ALA. CODE § 16-28-3	7	16	65.9	34.1
Alaska (ALASKA STAT. § 14.30.010)	7	16	64.1	35.9
Arizona (ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-802)	6	16	84.7	15.3
Delaware (DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 14, § 2702)	5	16	73.1	26.9
Florida (FLA. STAT. ANN. § 1003.21)	6	16	64.6	35.4
Georgia (GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-690.1)	6	16	61.7	38.3
Idaho (IDAHO CODE § 33-202)	7	16	81.0	19.0
Indiana (IND. CODE ANN. § 20-33-2-6)	7	16	73.2	26.8
Iowa (IOWA CODE ANN. § 299.1A)	6	16	86.6	13.4
Kentucky (KY. REV. STAT. ANN. 159.010)	6	16	75.9	24.1
Maryland (MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-301)	5	16	79.3	20.7
Massachusetts (MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 76, § 1; MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 603, § 8.02)	6	16	78.7	21.3
Michigan (MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1561)	6	16	73.0	27.0
Minnesota (MINN. STAT. § 120A.22)	7	16	85.9	14.1
Missouri (MO. REV. STAT. § 167.031)	7	16	80.6	19.4
Montana (MONT. CODE. ANN. § 20-5-102)	7	16	81.5	18.5
New Jersey (N.J. REV. STAT. § 18A-38-25)	6	16	85.1	14.9
New York (N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3205)	6	16	65.3	34.7
North Carolina (N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-378)	7	16	72.6	27.4
North Dakota (N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-20-01)	7	16	86.3	13.7
Rhode Island (R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-19-1)	6	16	78.4	21.6
Vermont (VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 16, § 1121)	6	16	86.5	13.5
Wyoming (WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-102)	7	16	76.7	23.3

Average dropout rate
for states with
compulsory
attendance age of 16:
23.4%

Arkansas (ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-18-201)	5	17	75.7	24.3	Average dropout rate for states with compulsory attendance age of 17: 26.9%
Colorado (COLO. REV. STAT. §22-33-104)	6	17	76.7	23.3	
Illinois (105 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. § 5/26-1)	7	17	79.4	20.6	
Maine (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20A, § 5001-A)	7	17	78.6	21.4	
Mississippi (MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-13-91)	6	17	63.3	36.7	
Pennsylvania (PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 13-1326)	8	17	82.5	17.5	
South Carolina (S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-65-10)	5	17	60.1	39.9	
Tennessee (TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3001)	6	17	68.5	31.5	
California (CAL. EDUC. CODE 48200)	6	18	74.6	25.4	Average dropout rate for states with compulsory attendance age of 18: 23.9%
Connecticut (CON. GEN. STAT. § 10-184)	5	18	80.9	19.1	
District of Columbia (D.C. CODE ANN. § 38-202)	5	18	68.8	31.2	
Hawaii (HAW. REV. STAT. 302A-1132)	6	18	75.1	24.9	
Kansas (KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-1111)	7	18	79.2	20.8	
Louisiana (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:221)	7	18	63.9	36.1	
Nebraska (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-201)	6	18	87.8	12.2	
Nevada (NEV. REV. STAT. § 392.040)	7	18	55.8	44.2	
New Hampshire (N.H. REV. STAT. § 193:1)	6	18	80.1	19.9	
New Mexico (N.M. STAT ANN. §§ 22-8-2, 22-12-2)	5	18	65.4	34.6	
Ohio (OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3321.01)	6	18	80.2	19.8	
Oklahoma OKLA. STAT. ANN. TIT. 70, § 10-105	5	18	76.9	23.1	
Oregon (OR. REV. STAT. § 339.010)	7	18	74.2	25.8	
South Dakota (S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 13-27-1)	6	18	82.3	17.7	
Texas (TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 25.085)	6	18	74.0	26.0	
Utah (UTAH CODE ANN. § 53A-11-101)	6	18	84.4	15.6	
Virginia (VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-254)	5	18	79.6	20.4	

Washington (WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 28A.225.010)	8	18	75.0	25.0
West Virginia (W. VA. CODE § 18-8-1)	6	18	77.3	22.7
Wisconsin (WIS. STAT. ANN. § 118.15)	6	18	86.7	13.3

*Compulsory School Age Requirements - www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/64/07/6407.htm

** Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States - nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/dropout06/figures/figure_04.asp