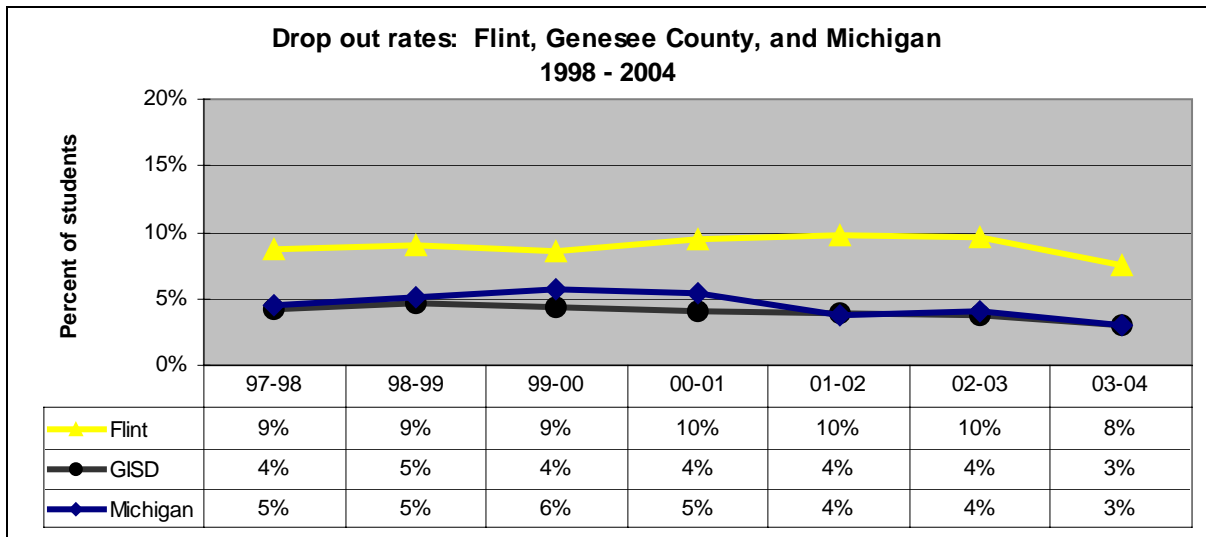




Mission: Improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, public awareness and advocacy.

Fact Sheet 3.4 High School Dropout Rates

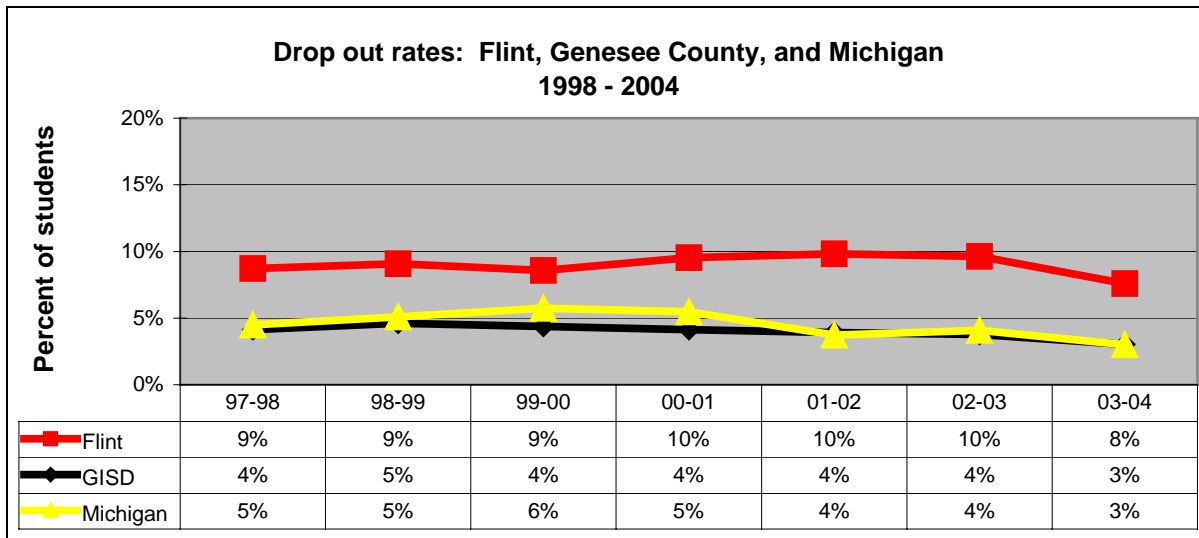
Whether or not students finish high school or its equivalent is strongly related to their long-term economic security and continued prospects for employment. The number of high school dropouts in a community also has significant implications for that community's ability to compete in the marketplace, to ensure employment opportunities for its residents, and to maintain economic stability and prosperity.



- Rates in Flint, Genesee County, and Michigan have declined over the past decade.
- The dropout rate for all Genesee County high schools closely matches or is better than the rate in the state as a whole.
- Although dropout rates in Flint, Genesee County, and Michigan have all dropped from the beginning to the end of the decade, Flint's rate has slightly increased in the last five years and continues to be more than double the other rates.

If all high school students were accounted for, the sum of the graduation and dropout rates for a school system would equal 100%. Since this is not the case, some high school students are apparently not included in calculating either the graduation or dropout rates, so that their fate remains unknown. The percentage of high school students missed by these measures may be an indicator of the completeness of the data from which these graduation and dropout rates are calculated: The higher the percentage of missing students, the less reliable the graduation and dropout rates may be.

Fact Sheet 3.4: High School Dropout Rates continued...



- Over the past ten years, the percentage of missing students has dropped in Flint, Genesee County, and Michigan as a whole. The improvement in the quality of the data is most dramatic for Flint.
- The rate of missing Flint high school students remains substantially higher than for Genesee County or the state as a whole.
- Please see Fact Sheet 5.1 Juvenile Offenses for more information on truancy and drop out rates.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

These statistics tell the story only as far as they can. A number of county school districts have alternative education programs and/or adult education programs in which the counted “drop-outs” may enroll. Districts’ resources, and therefore practices, do not allow for tracking of individual students after they leave school. Some do make their way to alternative programs and do eventually graduate or earn GED certificates. Missing students may have moved, enrolled in a new school, but their records were not requested.

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

Alternative high school and adult education programs are offered in many districts. For students unable to complete traditional programs due to personal or family situations, these alternative programs make the difference between graduating and dropping out.

Student assistance programs help students deal with behavioral situations and emotional and mental health issues that can impact a student’s positive completion of school. Programs address areas such as conflict resolution, character education, violence prevention, and character education through educational support groups, research-based life skills training programs, and mentoring.

- Bridges to the Future** - Bridges to the Future youth development programs operate before and after school in the twenty-one school districts in Genesee County. They provide “Mind Time” along with enrichment, recreation, sports, and personal development activities. Evaluations demonstrate a positive impact on attitudes about school, as well as attendance, and academic achievement. Programs are available from K-9th grade.
- Amistad Academy** - Amistad Academy is an “after school school” operating at the Broome Center from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. It encompasses living and learning skills, economic development, career goals, and classes such as computers, public speaking, self esteem, health, finance, etc. Students earn points that translate to dollar incentives.

Definitions: The drop-out rate is defined as the difference between 100% and the estimated One-Year completion/graduation rate. The estimated One-Year completion/graduation rate is computed by averaging the individual class retention rates for the current year.

Data Source: Center for Educational Information, Michigan Department of Education

Revised: 12/5/05

