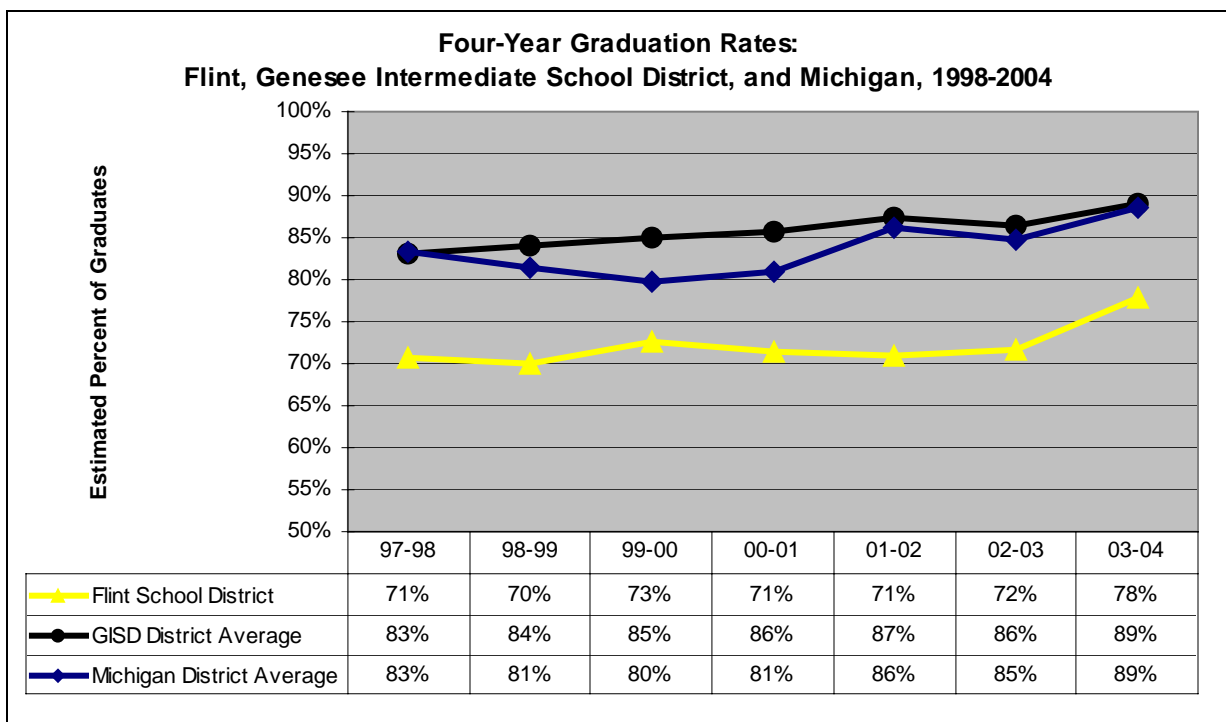




Mission: Improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, public awareness and advocacy.

Fact Sheet 3.5 High School Graduation Rates

Each year, the Michigan Department of Education estimates the percentage of ninth grade students who will complete their senior year and graduate from high school. These rates provide a measure of the proportion of students who receive the complement of basic courses of reading, writing, math, and other skills provided during the high school years. These rates also provide an indication of the number of students who are committed to remaining enrolled in the districts' schools for the extent of their high school years, rather than dropping out or leaving school for employment or other purposes.



- Genesee County rates have been consistently above the state averages.
- The rates of graduation for Flint, Genesee County, and Michigan as a whole have all risen over the past decade. Since the 1997-98 school year, however, rates have held steady.
- Flint's graduation rate has increased 11.7% in the period-- more than that of schools in either Genesee County (4.3%) or Michigan as a whole (8.3%).
- Please see Fact Sheet 5.1 Juvenile Offenses for more information on graduation rates and truancy.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Although still lagging behind the county and state, Flint's increased graduation rate is a positive note. It reflects a belief in the value of education on the part of students and their families, despite high unemployment, a poor local economy, and other environmental challenges. With either city, county, or state students, there is still the unanswered question of what/how many students "graduate" in other ways: a GED certificate, through adult or alternative program, or receiving training in the military, for example. While this information might not change the story told by the original numbers, it might be an indicator of the longer-term well being or success of those who choose a different route to completion.

Fact Sheet 3.5: High School Graduation Rates continued...

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 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 estimated Four-Year completion/graduation rate indicates, with no change in future retention rates, the percentage of 9th grade students who will complete their senior year of school and graduate. It is computed by multiplying the individual class retention rates together.

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

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