



GradMinnesota is a partnership of
Minnesota Alliance With Youth
Minnesota Department of Education
Office of the Governor

MDE RELEASES 2017 GRADUATION RATES

The Minnesota Department of Education released the latest graduation rate data for 2017, reporting a 82.7% overall 4-year graduation rate for the state. [Read MDE's full press release for more information.](#)

Complete graduation data are available on the [Minnesota Report Card](#), which includes charts and graphs illustrating trends and results for all student groups.

The 2017 graduation data include significant changes in the way the data are reported. As a result of new federal reporting requirements, students are now identified using one of seven racial/ethnic groups, instead of the previous five groups, adding categories for students identifying as two or more races, as well as migrant students, and students experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, the new data reflect changes to the way graduation rates are calculated. These changes are a part of the state's transition to its approved plan under the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



GradMN Legislative Action Items

The GradMinnesota Legislative & Advocacy Committee is asking individuals to support the following efforts:

1. **Contact Senator Carla Nelson and Representative Jenifer Loon and request a hearing for the Minnesota Youth Council funding bill (SF1579/HF1798).**
 - o Contact Representative Loon [rep.jenifer.loon@house.mn] and her Committee Administrator [jody.withers@house.mn]
 - o Contact Senator Nelson [sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn] and her Committee Administrator [gregory.marcus@senate.mn]
2. **Please take time to support Senator Pratt's discipline bill (SF2920/HF3587).**
 - o Please contact the House Education Policy Chair, Representative Sondra Erickson [rep.sondra.erickson@house.mn] to ask for a hearing
 - o Contact the committee members to ask for a hearing. Full list of committee members can be found [here](#).
 - o Contact your own representative to ask for a hearing. Full list of representatives can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events and Trainings

1) **[YOUTH DAY AT THE CAPITOL](#)** - March 27: YDAC is, an annual event connecting youth, community experts and local policymakers. Our goal is to get young people talking with their legislators about issues that are important to them. We want young people to understand that our elected officials work for the people, including young people!

2) **[CHECK & CONNECT COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING](#)** - April 19/20: A 2-day training that provides participants with a thorough overview of Check & Connect and its background; how to prepare their site for implementing Check & Connect; and the information, competencies, and skills needed to be an effective Check & Connect mentor at their site.

3) **[MDE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS TRAININGS SET](#)** - June, dates vary by location: The Minnesota Department of Education School Safety Technical Assistance Center will offer two weeks of restorative practices training in three Minnesota locations this June. Restorative practices is an approach schools can use to improve school climate and reduce discipline disparities. It focuses on building relationships and creating community in school to prevent harm and to repair relationships.

The trainings are open to school administrators, school board members, teachers,

educational aides, school resource officers, student support staff, out-of-school time staff, youth workers, school volunteers and community partners. Sessions offered range from introductory level trainings to advanced level trainings.

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The resources shared in this newsletter are intended for informational purposes only.