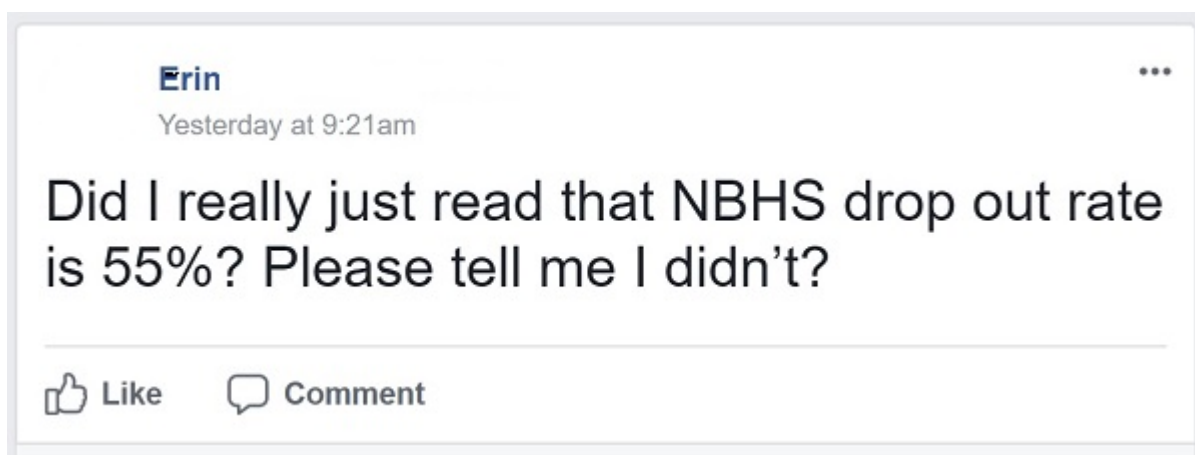


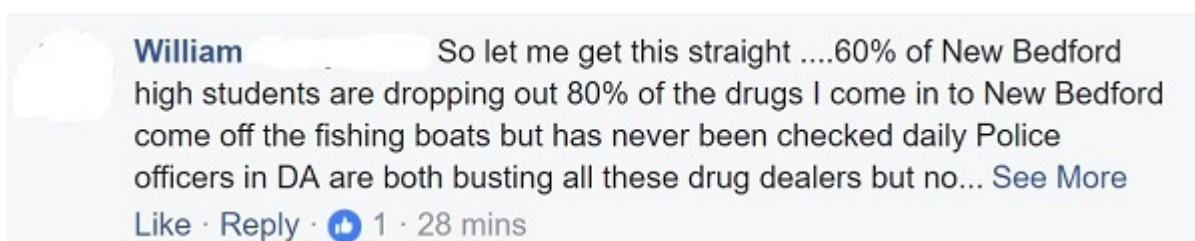
Fact Check: The New Bedford High School dropout rate

As the November 7th New Bedford election draws near, a lot of candidates and supporters throw out numbers and statistics – some are accurate, some are not. Lately, I've seen a lot of claims on social media regarding the New Bedford High School dropout rate – from 55%-60% recently on Facebook.

One person heard it was 55% and wanted to know the truth.



Another person stated he knew it was at 60%.



So what is the current New Bedford High School graduation rate? How has it trended over the years?

First, it's important to note that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary education keeps the only stats that matter. The 2016 Graduation rate numbers can be found **here** and the dropout numbers **here**.

The numbers for any given year are generally released in

February. We reported the 2016 numbers [here](#).

Now let's look at the numbers.

New Bedford High School's 2016 four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate was at 70.9% and the non-adjusted rate was at 65.2%. The 2015 four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate was 67.8%. It was 61.4% in 2010. Simple math tells you that the cohort graduation rate has increased by 9.5% from 2010 to 2016. Considering New Bedford High School had 2,066 students in 2016, that would mean New Bedford High School is graduating about 200 more students over a 4-year period.

Here's a look at the 2016 graduation rates for New Bedford High School:

4-Year Graduation Rate (2016)

4-Year Graduation Rate (2016)							
Student Group	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still in School	% Non-Grad Completers	% H.S. Equiv.	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
All Students	560	65.2	12.9	7.5	0.7	13.8	0.0
Male	321	60.7	17.4	5.6	0.9	15.3	0.0
Female	239	71.1	6.7	10.0	0.4	11.7	0.0
ELL	98	41.8	16.3	24.5	0.0	17.3	0.0
Students w/disabilities	108	49.1	23.1	10.2	0.9	16.7	0.0
Low income	443	60.9	14.0	8.6	0.7	15.8	0.0
High needs	468	59.8	15.0	8.5	0.6	16.0	0.0
Afr. Amer./Black	77	64.9	3.9	14.3	0.0	16.9	0.0
Asian	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic/Latino	184	51.6	20.7	12.0	0.0	15.8	0.0
Amer. Ind. or Alaska Nat.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	251	73.7	9.2	3.2	1.2	12.7	0.0
Nat. Haw. or Pacif. Isl.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-race, Non-Hisp./Lat.	34	76.5	11.8	0.0	2.9	8.8	0.0

* NOTE: Graduation rates will not be publicly reported for cohort counts fewer than 6 [More about the data.](#)

4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (2016)

4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (2016)							
Student Group	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still in School	% Non-Grad Completers	% H.S. Equiv.	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
All Students	433	70.9	11.3	5.3	0.5	12.0	0.0
Male	244	66.8	15.2	4.1	0.8	13.1	0.0
Female	189	76.2	6.3	6.9	0.0	10.6	0.0
ELL	33	60.6	9.1	18.2	0.0	12.1	0.0
Students w/disabilities	91	50.5	23.1	11.0	1.1	14.3	0.0
Low income	350	66.0	13.7	5.7	0.6	14.0	0.0
High needs	358	65.6	13.7	5.9	0.6	14.2	0.0
Afr. Amer./Black	51	70.6	2.0	9.8	0.0	17.6	0.0
Asian	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic/Latino	133	59.4	19.5	9.0	0.0	12.0	0.0
Amer. Ind. or Alaska Nat.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	210	76.2	8.6	2.9	0.5	11.9	0.0
Nat. Haw. or Pacif. Isl.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-race, Non-Hisp./Lat.	29	79.3	10.3	0.0	3.4	6.9	0.0

Graduation rates and dropout rates tell very different stories. Sometimes kids stay in school without dropping out – they don't graduate that year, but they don't dropout either.

This is why you see graduation rates, cohort graduation rates and 5-year graduation rates. Kids may not graduate with the freshman class they started with for various reasons, but that doesn't mean they drop out.

New Bedford High School's four-year dropout rate was at 12% in 2016, down from 13.9% in 2015. It stood at 21.2% in 2013. The dropout rate seems to be moving in the right direction. New Bedford High's 2016 graduating class dropout rate is 4.4%. Here's the breakdown for 2016:

<u>Student Group</u>	<u># Enrolled Grades 09 through 12</u>	<u># Dropout All Grades</u>	<u>% Dropout All Grades</u>	<u>% Dropout Grade 09</u>	<u>% Dropout Grade 10</u>	<u>% Dropout Grade 11</u>	<u>% Dropout Grade 12</u>
All Students	2,066	91	4.4	4.2	7.1	4.3	2.2
High Needs	1,442	78	5.4	4.8	7.7	5.6	3.1
Economically Disadvantaged	940	60	6.4	5.5	10.2	6.1	4.6
LEP English language learner	430	25	5.8	3.9	7.1	7.8	3.4
Students with disabilities	406	16	3.9	5.7	4.5	2.8	1.8
African American/Black	265	8	3.0	1.5	6.0	3.2	1.9
American Indian or Alaskan Native	19	2	10.5	0.0			
Asian	18	0	0.0			0.0	
Hispanic or Latino	851	38	4.5	3.8	6.9	4.7	1.6
Multi-race, non-Hispanic or Latino	98	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	11	1	9.1				
White	804	42	5.2	6.2	9.8	4.2	2.7
Female	945	29	3.1	2.5	3.4	3.5	2.7
Male	1,121	62	5.5	5.3	10.2	5.1	1.9

The graduation rate at comparable Durfee High School in Fall River in 2016 was at 79.2%, a full 9% higher than New Bedford High School. Clearly New Bedford High School still needs work, but it's not as bad as some are claiming on social media.

So what's the fact check? The New Bedford High School dropout rate for 2016 was 12%, not the 55-60% some are claiming.

Notice a questionable fact floating around social media? Email mike@newbedfordguide.com.