



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Charles Weis, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

December 9, 2010

TO: Charles Weis, Ph.D., Superintendent

FROM: Linda Aceves, Chief Academic Officer, Educational Services
Bill Conrad, Ed.D., Director, Assessment and Accountability
Dan Mason, Research Analyst, Assessment and Accountability
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SUBJECT: Final Release of 2008-09 Adjusted Dropout Data and Graduation Data

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released the final adjusted dropout counts and graduation rates for the 2008-09 school year. Dropout rates and graduation rates are based two different formulas. Hence, there are often small inconsistencies when comparing graduation rates to dropout rates. Whereas four-year derived dropout rates are based on one year of data, graduation rates are based on four years of data. See Appendix A for a detailed explanation of how each of the rates is calculated.

Santa Clara County Office of Education's Assessment and Accountability Department prepared the following analysis of the 2008-09 Dropout and Graduation data for your review. This memo will report on the following key topics:

- 2008-09 dropout rate in Santa Clara County (SCC) compared to California (CA)
- 2008-09 dropout rate of subgroups in SCC
- 2008-09 graduation rate for SCC compared to CA
- 2008-09 graduation rate summary of subgroup results for SCC

Highlights of the report include:

- SCC students graduated at a higher rate in 2008-09 than did students statewide. The graduation rate in SCC was 81.3 percent, compared 78.5 percent for CA. Although the graduation rate in SCC was higher than that of the state, SCC's graduation rate in the 2008-09 school year dipped slightly from the year before: 81.5 percent in 2008-09 compared to 81.9 percent in 2007-08.
- SCC graduated a greater proportion of students who completed all the courses required for entrance into the UC and/or CSU system than did the state. Among 12th grade graduates in SCC, 49.3 percent completed coursework required for UC/CSU entrance. In comparison, 35.3 percent of 12th grade graduates in California completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance.

- In SCC, the proportion of graduates who completed the coursework required for UC and/or CSU entrance increased from 2007-08 to 2008-09. Among White 12th grade graduates, there was a 3.6 percentage point increase in the number who completed the courses required for UC/CSU entrance, from 51.9 percent in 2007-08 to 55.5 percent in 2008-09. Hispanic 12th grade graduates saw a 3.0 percentage point increase, from 22.7% in 2007-08 to 25.7 percent in 2008-09.
- The adjusted four-year derived dropout rate in SCC for 2008-09 was 16.1 percent, an increase of 1.7 percentage points over the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate of 14.4 percent in 2007-08. Although the dropout rate in the county increased, it was lower than the statewide dropout rate of 21.7 percent.

The source of all the data reported on the following pages is the California Department of Education's (CDE) DataQuest system (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/dataquest.asp>).

Topic 1 – 2008-09 Dropout Rate: SCC Compared to CA

	SCC	CA	Table/Figure
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate	16.1%	21.7%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 One-year Dropout Rate	4.2%	5.7%	
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Hispanic/Latino	29.3%	26.9%	Table 1
Percent of Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Dropouts who were Hispanic/Latino	63.5%	56.7%	Figure 1
Percent of Grade 9 – 12 Enrollment who were Hispanic/Latino	34.9%	46.3%	Figure 1
Percent of Adjusted Grade 7 – 12 Dropouts who Dropped Out in Twelfth Grade	60.0%	43.2%	Figure 2
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Special Education	20.3%	27.1%	Table 3

Table reads: The adjusted four-year derived dropout rate for SCC was 16.1% for all 9th-12th graders and 29.3% for Hispanic/Latino 9th-12th graders. Among all dropouts in SCC, 63.5% were Hispanic/Latino. Statewide, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate was 21.7% for all 9th-12th graders and 26.9% for Hispanic/Latino 9th-12th graders. Among all dropouts in CA, 26.9% were Hispanic/Latino.

Topic 2 – 2008-09 Dropout Rate: Summary of Subgroup Results for SCC

	SCC	Table/Figure
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Male	18.9%	Table 3
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Female	13.1%	Table 3
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Asian	6.1%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: White	9.2%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Hispanic/Latino	29.3%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Hispanic/Latino Males	33.5%	
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate: Hispanic/Latino Females	24.8%	

Table reads: In SCC, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate for male 9th-12th graders was 18.9% and 13.1% for female 9th-12th graders. Among Hispanic/Latino males, the adjusted four-year dropout rate was 33.5% and 24.8% for Hispanic/Latino females.

Topic 3 – 2008-09 Graduation Rate: SCC Compared to CA

	SCC	CA	Table/Figure
Graduation Rate Based on NCES Definition	81.3%	78.5% ¹	Figure 4
Percent of 12 th Grade Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	49.3%	35.3%	Figure 5

Table reads: The graduation rate in SCC (based on NCES definition) was 81.3%. Among 12th grade graduates, 49.3 percent completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance. In comparison, the graduation rate for CA was 78.5%, and 35.3% of 12th grade graduates completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance.

¹ The CDE published two graduation rates for the state (78.5% and 70.1%), each based on a different methodology for calculation. While the lower rate may be more accurate, the higher rate was derived from the methodology that the CDE used to report district and school graduation rates. Therefore, the higher rate is used for comparison purposes in this report.

Topic 4 – 2008-09 Graduation Rate: Summary of Subgroup Results for SCC

	SCC	Table/Figure
Percent of 12 th Grade Asian Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	70.1%	Figure 6
Percent of 12 th Grade White Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	55.5%	Figure 6
Percent of 12 th Grade Hispanic Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	25.7%	Figure 6

Table reads: In SCC, 70.1% of Asian 12th grade graduates, 55.5% of White 12th grade graduates, and 25.7% of Hispanic 12th grade graduates completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance.

Table 1: 2008-09 SCC and CA Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rates by Ethnicity

Ethnic Category	Santa Clara County		California	
	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate
Hispanic or Latino	2,125	29.3%	65,738	26.9%
White	521	9.2%	23,124	14.3%
Asian	302	6.1%	4,425	9.7%
African American (not Hispanic)	157	22.2%	16,578	36.9%
Filipino	122	10.6%	1,574	10.8%
Two or more races	51	6.4%	664	5.3%
Pacific Islander	30	19.9%	912	25.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	24	24.3%	1,341	30.3%
Not reported	13	*	1,519	*
Total	3,345**	16.1%	115,875	21.7%

Table reads: In Santa Clara County, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate among Hispanic/Latino 9th-12th graders was 29.3% and 9.2% among White 9th-12th graders. Statewide, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate among Hispanic/Latino 9th-12th graders was 26.9% and 14.3% among White 9th-12th graders.

*One or more grade levels had zero enrollment so an adjusted grade 9-12 four year derived rate could not be calculated.

**To provide some context to the number of dropouts in Santa Clara County (3,345), the total grade 9-12 enrollment in San Jose Unified School District in 2008-09 was 4,289.

Figure 1: 2008-09 SCC and CA Grade 9 – 12 Enrollment by Ethnicity Compared to the Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rates by Ethnicity

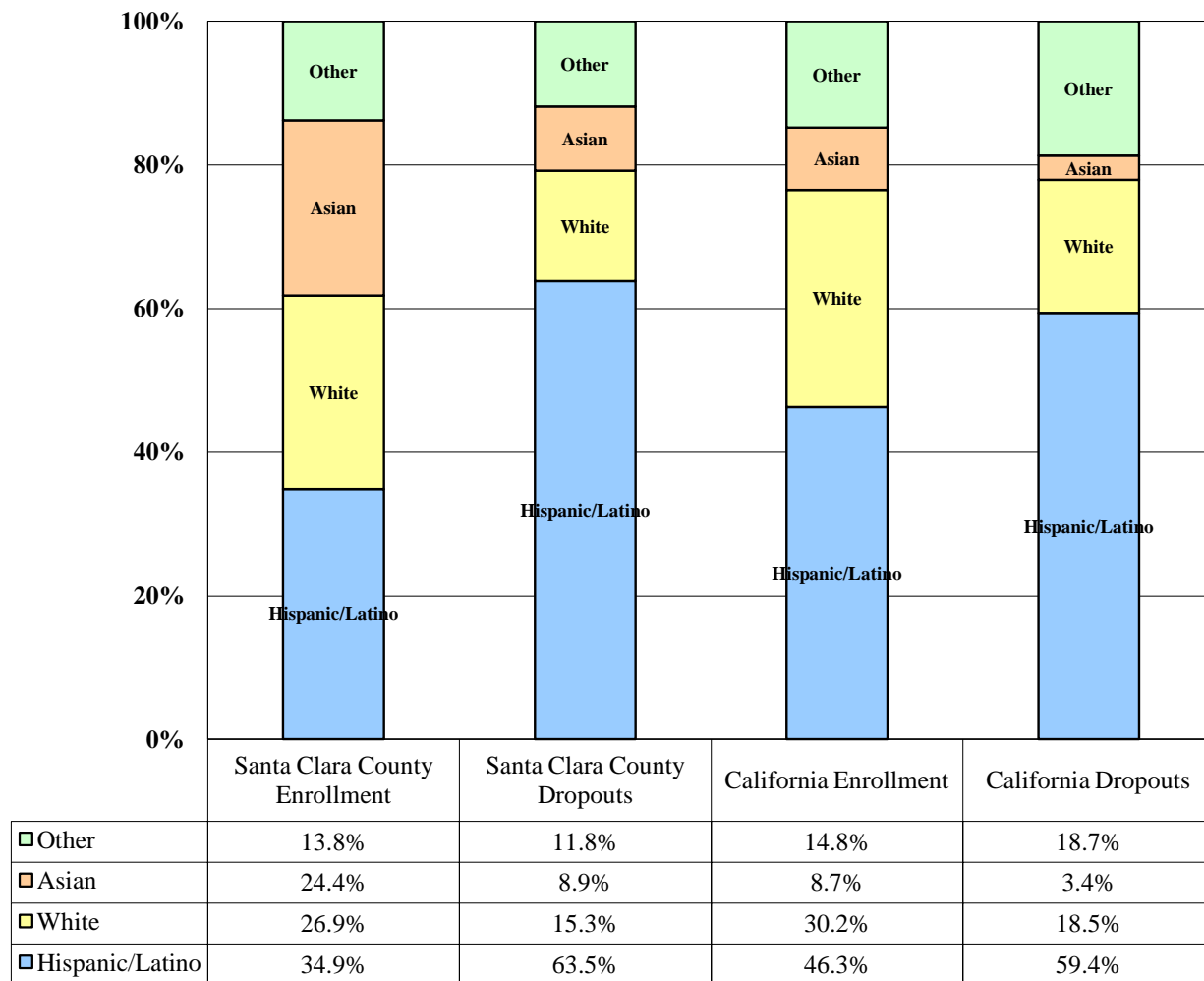


Figure reads: In Santa Clara County, Asian students comprised 24.4% of 9th-12th grade enrollment and 8.9% of all dropouts. In comparison, Asian students comprised 8.7% of 9th-12th grade enrollment in California and 3.4% of all dropouts in the state.

Figure 2: 2008-09 SCC and CA Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rates by Grade Level; displayed as Percent of Total Adjusted Dropouts

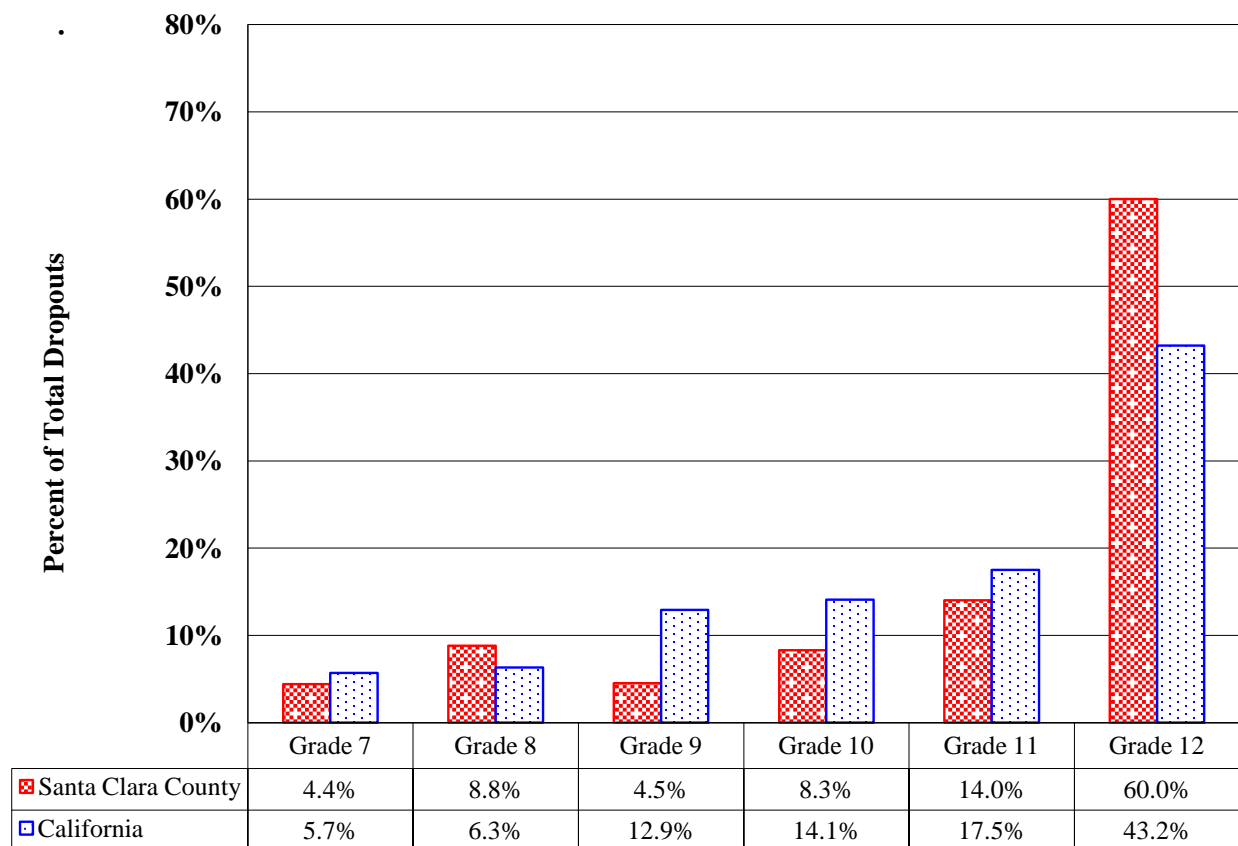


Figure reads: In Santa Clara County, 4.4% of dropouts in 2008-09 were 7th graders and 60% were 12th graders. In comparison, 5.7% of dropouts in California were 7th graders and 43.2% were 12th graders.

Table 2: 2008-09 SCC and CA Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropouts by Grade Level; shown as Percent of Total Adjusted Dropouts

Adjusted Dropouts (Grades 7 - 12)	Santa Clara County		California	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Grade 7 Dropouts	170	4.4%	7,551	5.7%
Grade 8 Dropouts	339	8.8%	8,291	6.3%
Grade 9 Dropouts	173	4.5%	17,044	12.9%
Grade 10 Dropouts	318	8.3%	18,551	14.1%
Grade 11 Dropouts	539	14.0%	23,038	17.5%
Grade 12 Dropouts	2,313	60.0%	56,941	43.2%
Ungraded Secondary	2	<1%	301	<1%
Total	3,854	100%	131,717	100%

Table reads: In Santa Clara County, 4.4% of dropouts in 2008-09 were 7th graders and 60% were 12th graders. In comparison, 5.7% of dropouts in California were 7th graders and 43.2% were 12th graders.

Table 3: SCC and CA 2008-09 Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rates by Subgroup*

Subgroup	Santa Clara County		California	
	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate
Male	2,032	18.9%	67,624	24.5%
Female	1,313	13.1%	48,251	18.7%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	1,729	24.7%	56,652	25.3%
LEP NCLB Definition**	374	6.4%	10,541	7.8%
Special Education Students	407	20.3%	14,006	27.1%
Migrant Education Students	64	17.7%	1,599	18.3%

Table reads: In Santa Clara County, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate among Male 9th-12th graders was 29.3% and 13.1% among Female 9th-12th graders. Statewide, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate among Male 9th-12th graders was 24.5% and 18.7% among female 9th-12th graders

* **Subgroup Data** - Please note that the reports for the following subgroups: English learners, special education, migrant education, and socioeconomically disadvantaged contain incomplete comparison information. The baseline data was collected in October of 2006. Since this was the first time enrollment was collected at the student level, in many cases schools and districts simply did not report if students were in one or more of these four subgroups. In the newest data set, collected in October of 2007, the state has emphasized that it will be using this information going forward, so the data regarding these four subgroups will be much more complete.

****Limited English Proficient (LEP)** - No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Definition includes English Learners (EL) and Fluent-English Proficient (FEP) students that have not yet tested at the proficient or above level for three years on the California Standards Test (CST) English Language Arts (ELA) test.

Figure 3: SCC 2008-09 Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rates by District*

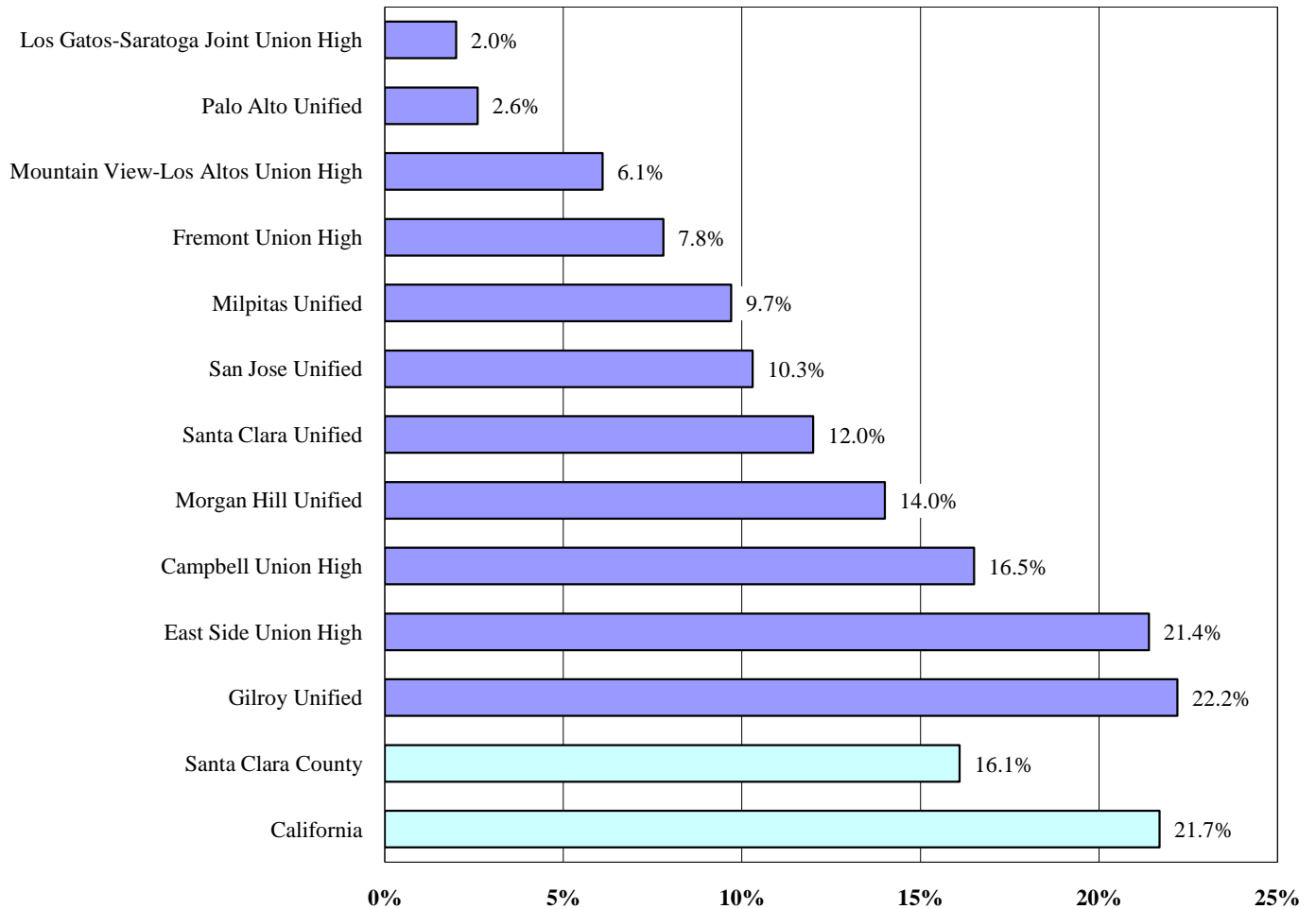


Figure reads: For Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate was 2.0%. For Gilroy Unified School District, rate was 22.2%.

*CDE does not post dropout rate calculations for schools that are operated by County Offices of Education because of constraints in interpreting these calculations with high mobility schools. Caution must also be used when calculating or analyzing dropout rates for other schools with high mobility including alternative schools, dropout recovery high schools, or schools eligible or participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM).

Figure 4: 2008-09 SCC Graduation Rates by District

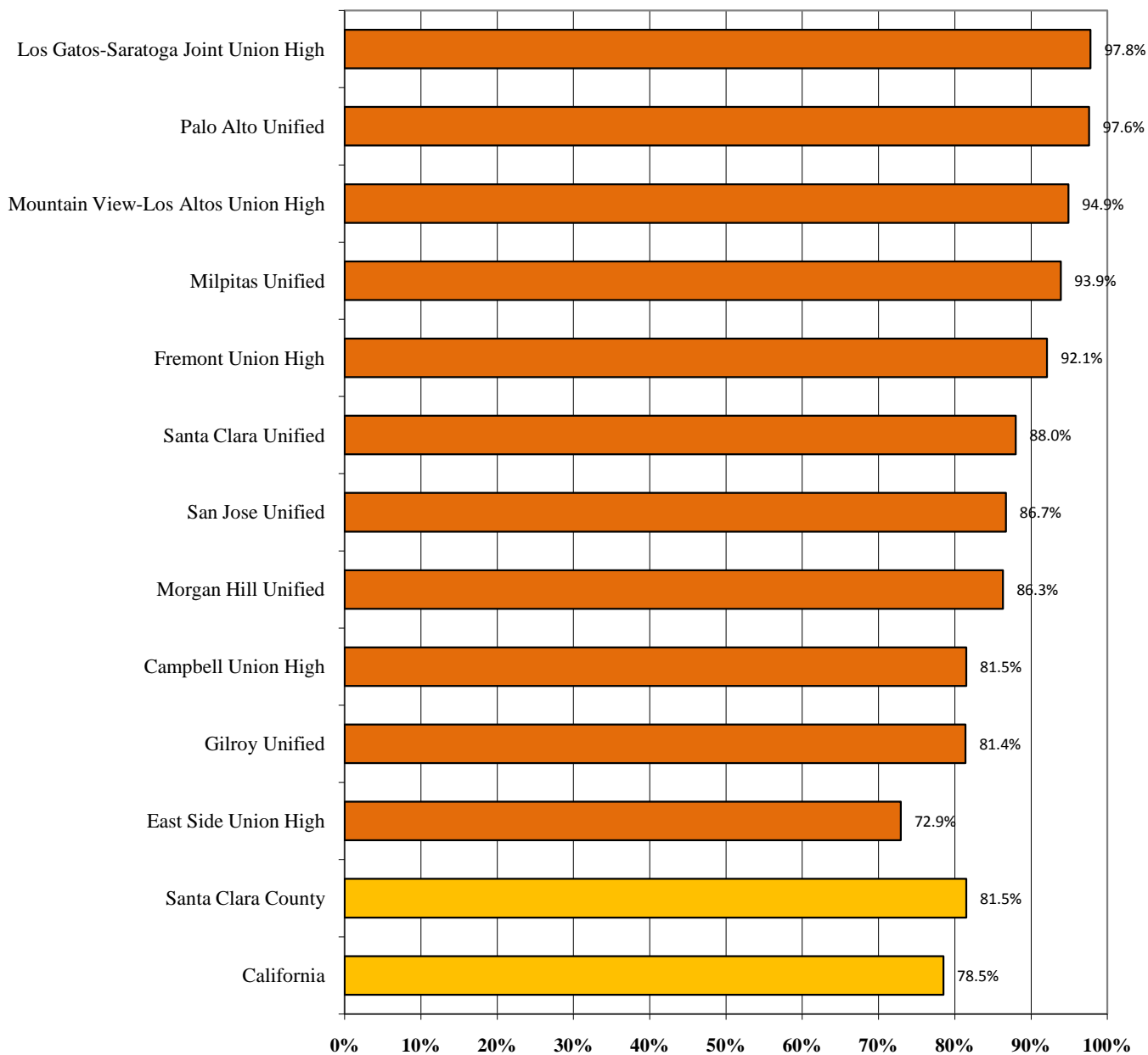


Figure reads: For Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, the graduation rate in 2008-09 was 97.8% and for East Side Union High School District, the graduation rate was 72.9%.

Figure 5: 2008-09 Percent of SCC 12th Grade Graduates Completing Courses Required for UC and/or CSU Entrance by District

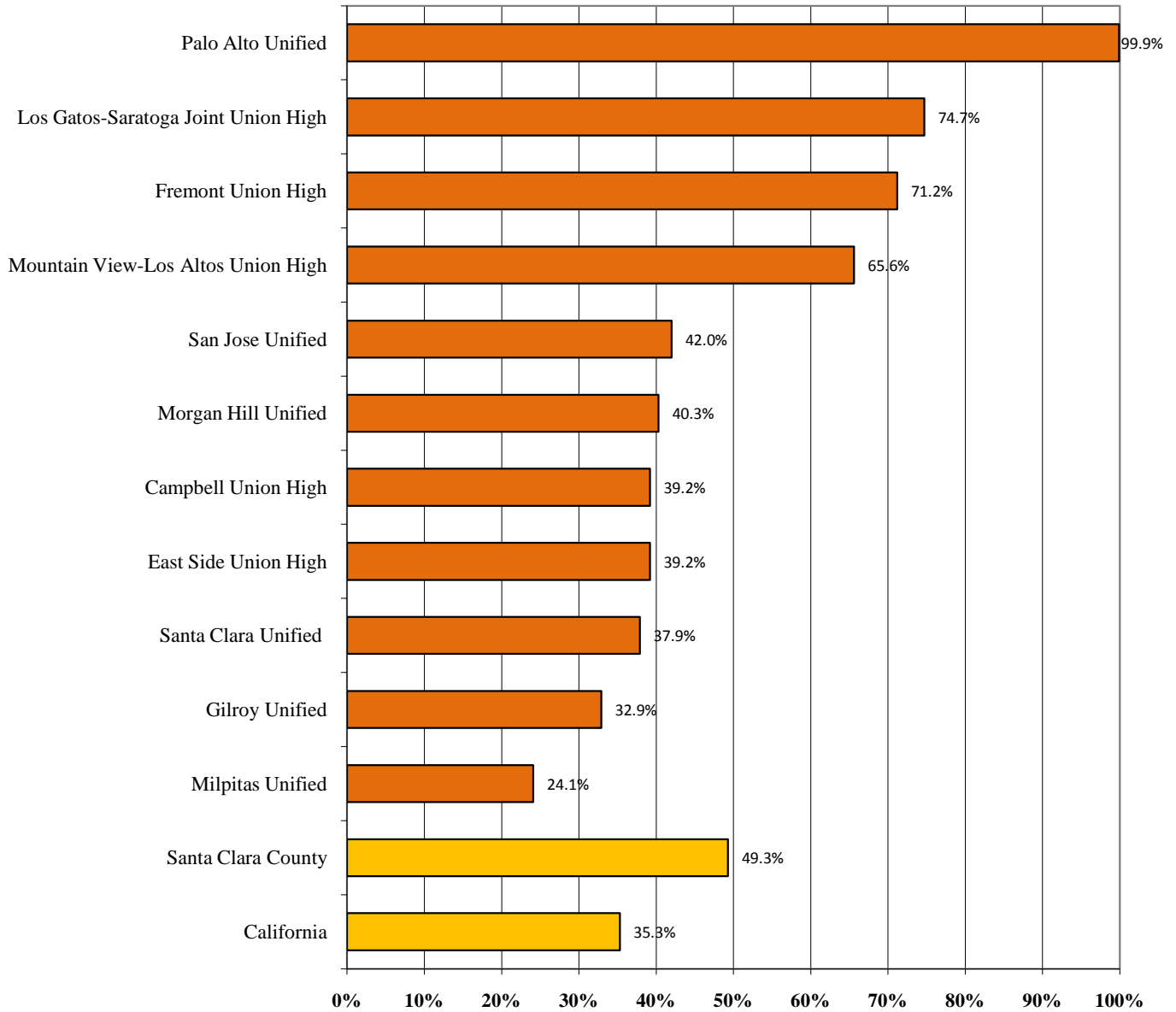


Figure reads: In Palo Alto Unified School District, 99.9% of 12th grade graduates completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance. In Milpitas Unified School District, 24.1% of 12th grade graduates completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance.

Figure 6: 2008-09 Percent of SCC 12th Grade Graduates Completing Courses Required for UC and/or CSU Entrance, by Ethnicity

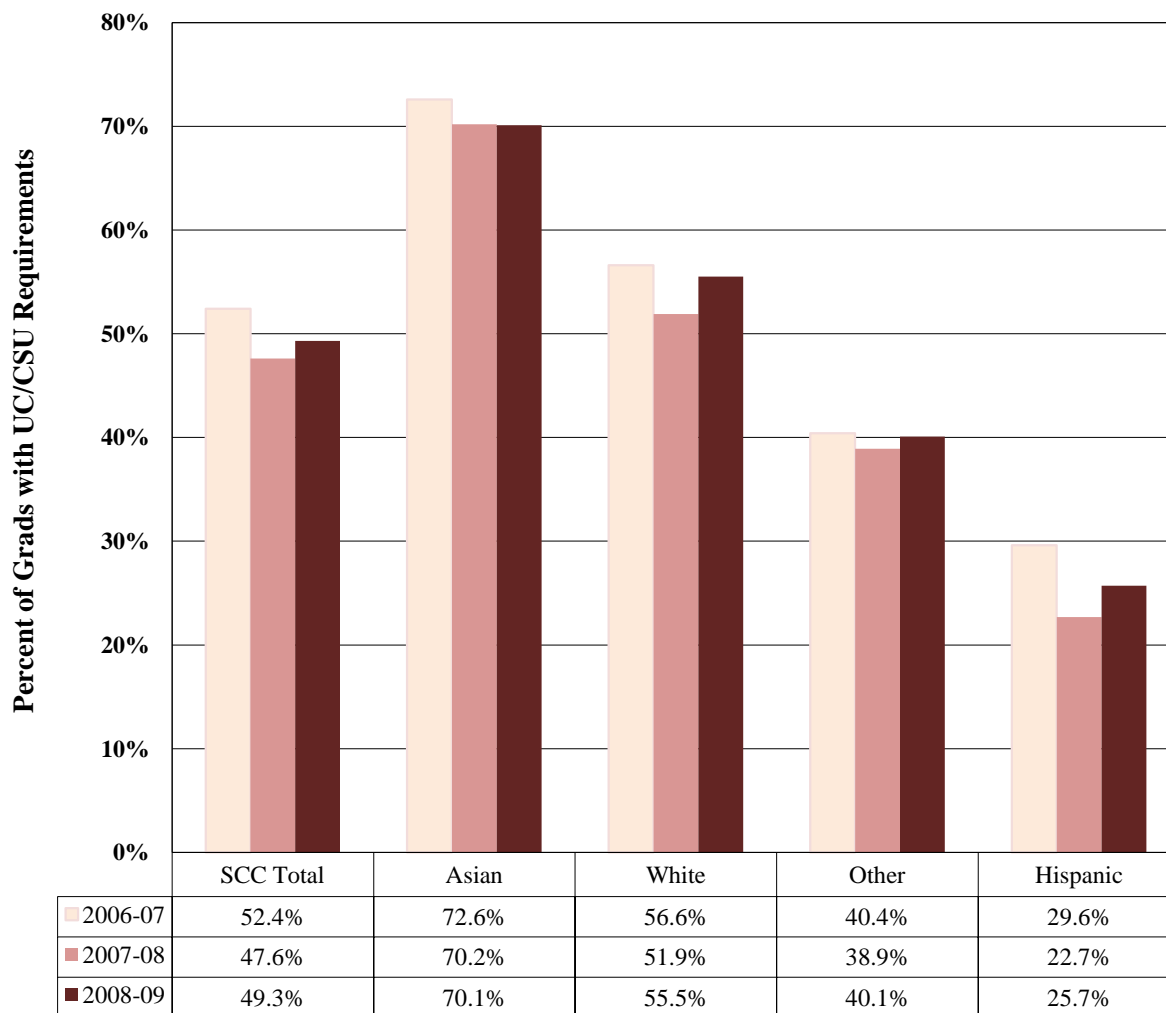


Figure reads: In SCC, 49.3% of all 12th grade graduates, 70.1% of Asian 12th grade graduates, 55.5% of White 12th grade graduates, and 25.7% of Hispanic 12th grade graduates completed all the courses required for UC/CSU entrance.

Appendix A: Methods for Calculating Dropout Rate and Graduation Rate

2008-09 Adjusted Dropout Rates

For the past three years, CDE has used Statewide Student Identification (SSID) numbers to collect dropout data at the student level. Data is collected via the Annual SSID Maintenance data (Information Day) submission process. Information Day submission took place on October 7, 2009.

This level of precision in data collection allows CDE to more accurately calculate the dropout rate. When these student-level data are submitted by LEAs and processed by the CDE, CDE focuses on two types of information concerning dropouts:

- (1) students reported by the LEA with a dropout exit code and were subsequently re-enrolled in another California school district (re-enrolled dropout); and
- (2) students reported by the LEA as a transfer to another California public school, but could not be located in another California public school by CDE (lost transfer).

CDE has adjusted the LEA reported dropout counts by subtracting re-enrolled dropouts from and adding lost transfers to the dropout counts. Since there are substantially more lost transfers than re-enrolled dropouts, this adjustment usually results in an increase in the number of grade seven through twelve dropouts attributed to schools. The adjustment reflects a significant step forward in efforts to more accurately track student enrollment over time and to better determine what happens to students who leave school before graduation.

The four-year derived dropout rate is an estimate of the percent of students who would drop out in a four-year period based on data collected for a single year. The formula used to calculate the four-year derived rate is:

$(1 - ((1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 9 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 9 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 10 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 10 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 11 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 11 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 12 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 12 Enrollment})))) * 100$

For example, during 2008-09 a school had enrollments of 250 students per grade and a total of 1,000 students. The school may have reported a certain amount of dropout and transfer exit codes to CDE during the school year. After the Information Day data collection and subsequent CDE data queries, CDE releases adjusted drop out counts for the school of three grade 9 students, four grade 10 students, four grade 11 students, and twenty-five grade 12 students. The four-year derived dropout rate would be calculated as follows:

Grade 9: $1 - (3/250) = .988$

Grade 10: $1 - (4/250) = .984$
Grade 11: $1 - (4/250) = .984$
Grade 12: $1 - (25/250) = .900$
$.988 \times .984 \times .984 \times .900 = .861$
$1 - .861 = .139 = 13.9\%$
13.9% is the four-year derived dropout rate

CDE defines a dropout for the October 2009 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) data collection as a person who meets the following criteria:

1) Was enrolled in grades seven through twelve at some time during the 2008-09 school year AND left school prior to completing the 2009-10 school year

OR

2) Successfully completed the 2007-08 school year but did not begin attending the next grade (seven through twelve) in the school to which he or she was assigned or in which he or she had pre-registered or was expected to attend during the 2008-09 school year

AND

3) Is not enrolled and attending school as of Information Day (aka CBEDS Day)

2008-09 Graduation Data

The graduation rate formula is based on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition:

Number of Graduates (Year 4)

divided by

Number of Graduates (Year 4) + Gr. 9 Dropouts (Year 1) + Gr. 10 Dropouts (Year 2) + Gr. 11 Dropouts (Year 3) + Gr. 12 Dropouts (Year 4)

Data sources:

Dropouts Grade 9 (05-06) - CBEDS October 2006

Dropouts Grade 10 (06-07) - CBEDS October 2007

Dropouts Grade 11 (07-08) - CBEDS October 2008*

Dropouts Grade 12 (08-09) - CBEDS October 2009*

Grade 12 Graduates (08-09) - CBEDS October 2009*

*Dropout and graduate counts are taken from student-level data.