

TEACHERS AS ADVISORS

PROGRAM BENEFITS AND BEST PRACTICES

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Outline

- Why Advisement?
 - The Bridge Act
- Evaluating Your Program
- Best Practices

Why Advisement?

- The BRIDGE (Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy) Act, House Bill 400, was signed into law May 2010 to create an atmosphere motivating middle- and high-school students to learn because they see the relevance of education to their dreams and future plans. The implementation of the BRIDGE Act provides middle- and high-school students with career counseling and regularly-scheduled advisement to choose a focused plan of study.

Georgia Department of Education



It's a question of:

OPPORTUNITY

How many opportunities do ALL Georgia students have to explore the world of work? To understand the connection between school work and their future career? To assess their individual interests and aptitudes? To assess their work values and preferences? To assess their individual learning, collaboration, and problem-solving styles? To develop a plan of action to reach their educational and career goals?

Vivian Synder, Ga DOE Career Development Coordinator

Advisement Programs

Effective advisement programs:

- Erase student anonymity, every child has an advocate
- Provide students with increased opportunities for career exploration
- Lead students to make more informed choices including but not limited to choices about high school coursework, career clusters in Georgia, CTAE career pathways, and advanced study options such as dual enrollment
- Increase student graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates by developing plans of study
- Helps students to attain academic, personal/social, and career goals

Bridge Implications for LEAs

- Mandates 6-12 system of advisement for ALL students through systematic, comprehensive, and developmental advisement
- Mandates 6-8 educational and career planning including counseling, advisement, career awareness, career interest inventories, and information to result in an individual guidance plan
- Mandates continued advisement 9—12
- Will provide Georgia with a qualified pool of workers to attract stable companies and industries

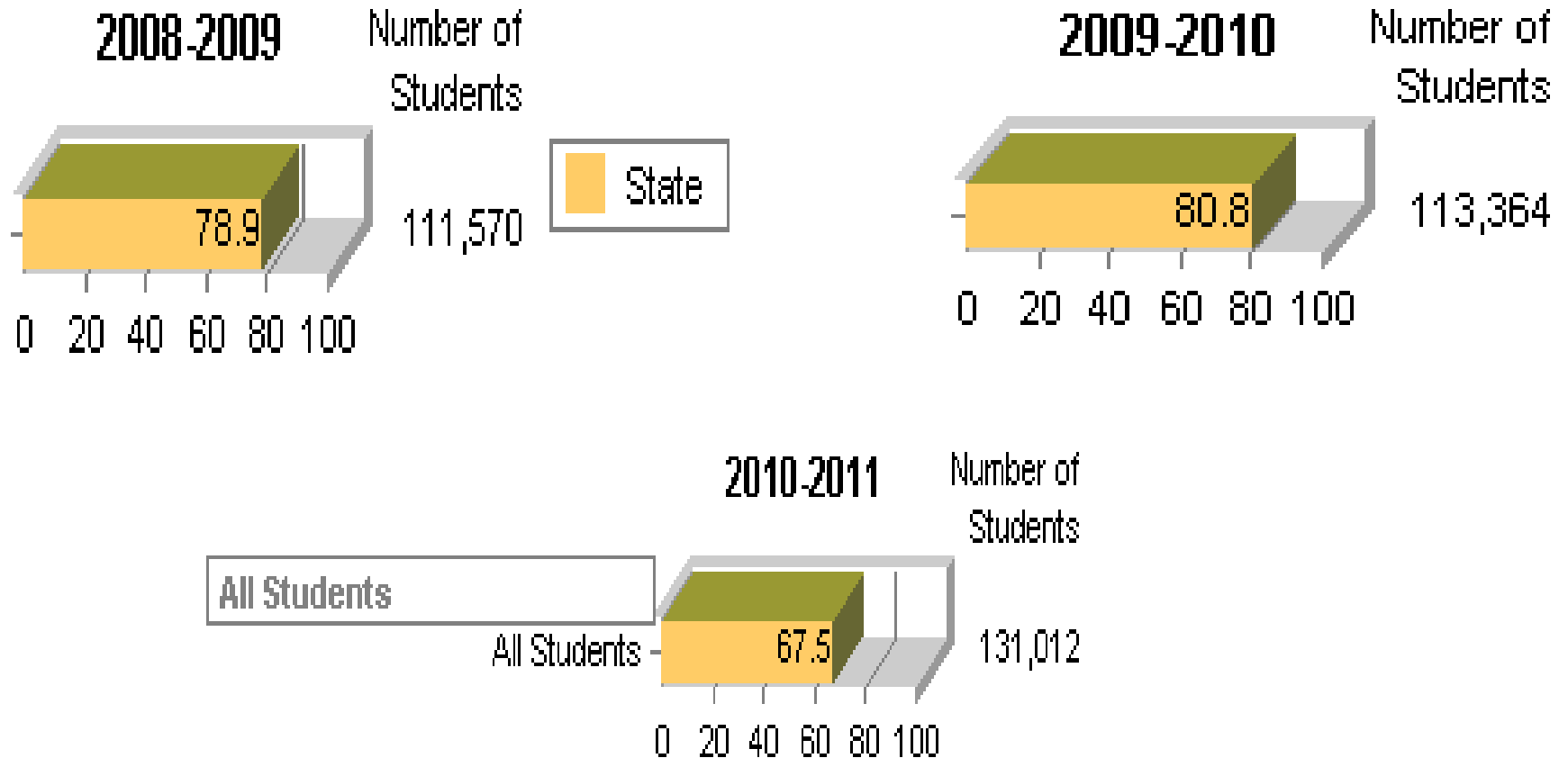
Georgia Department of Education

Strategic Goal :

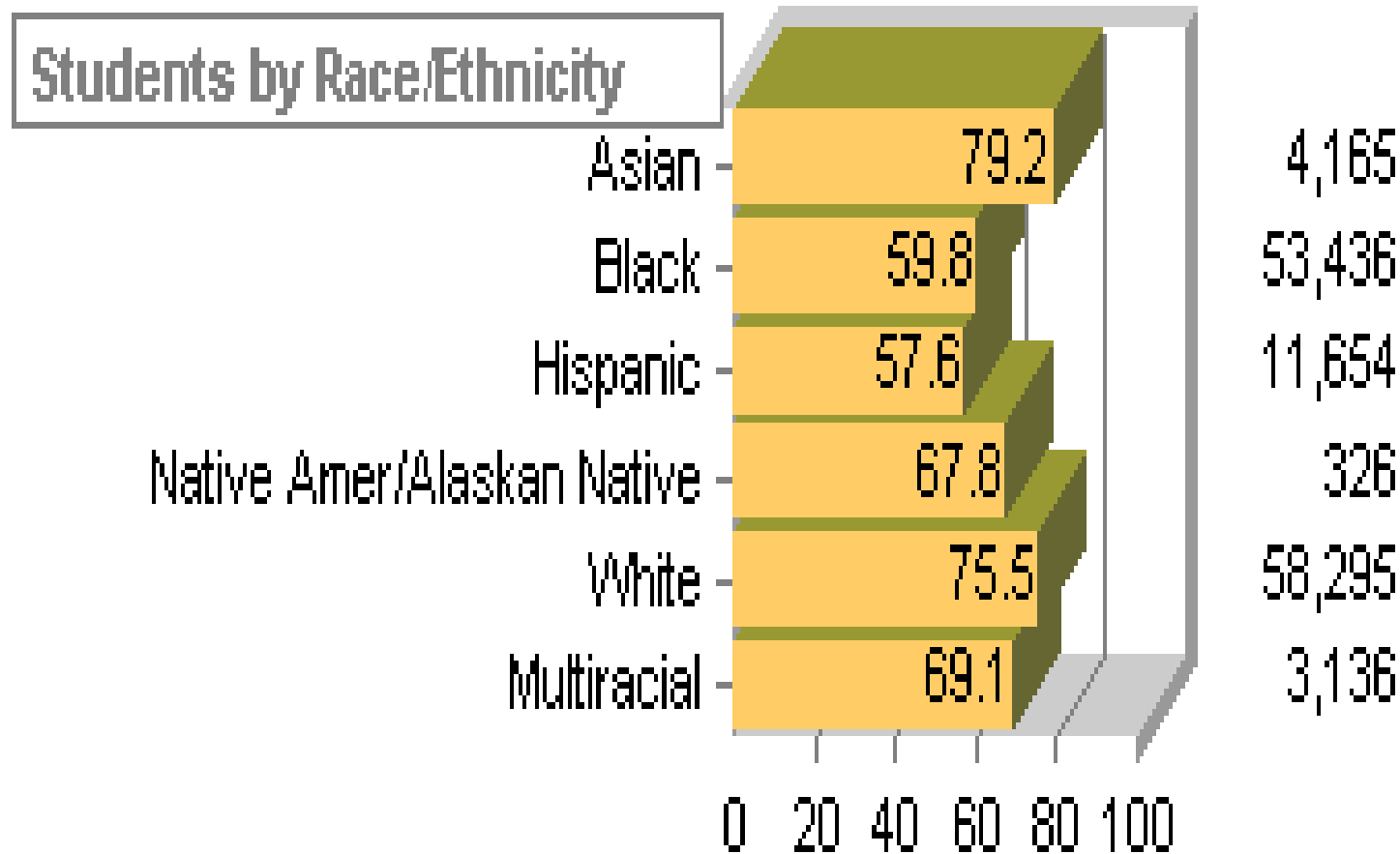
Increase high school graduation rate, decrease high-school dropout rate, and increase post-secondary enrollment rate.

Georgia Graduation Rates

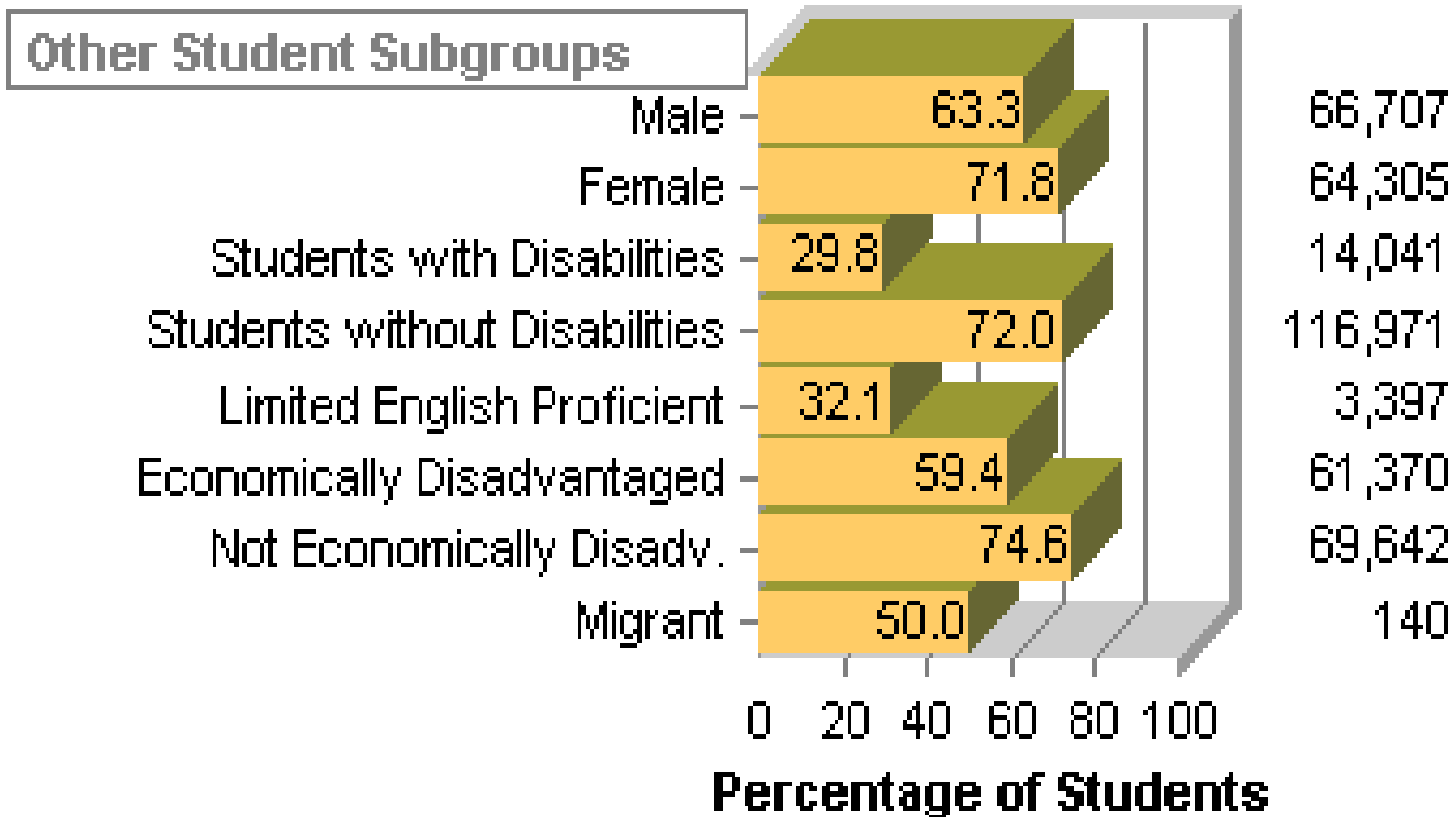
[Georgia Department of Education Report Card](#)



2010-2011 Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

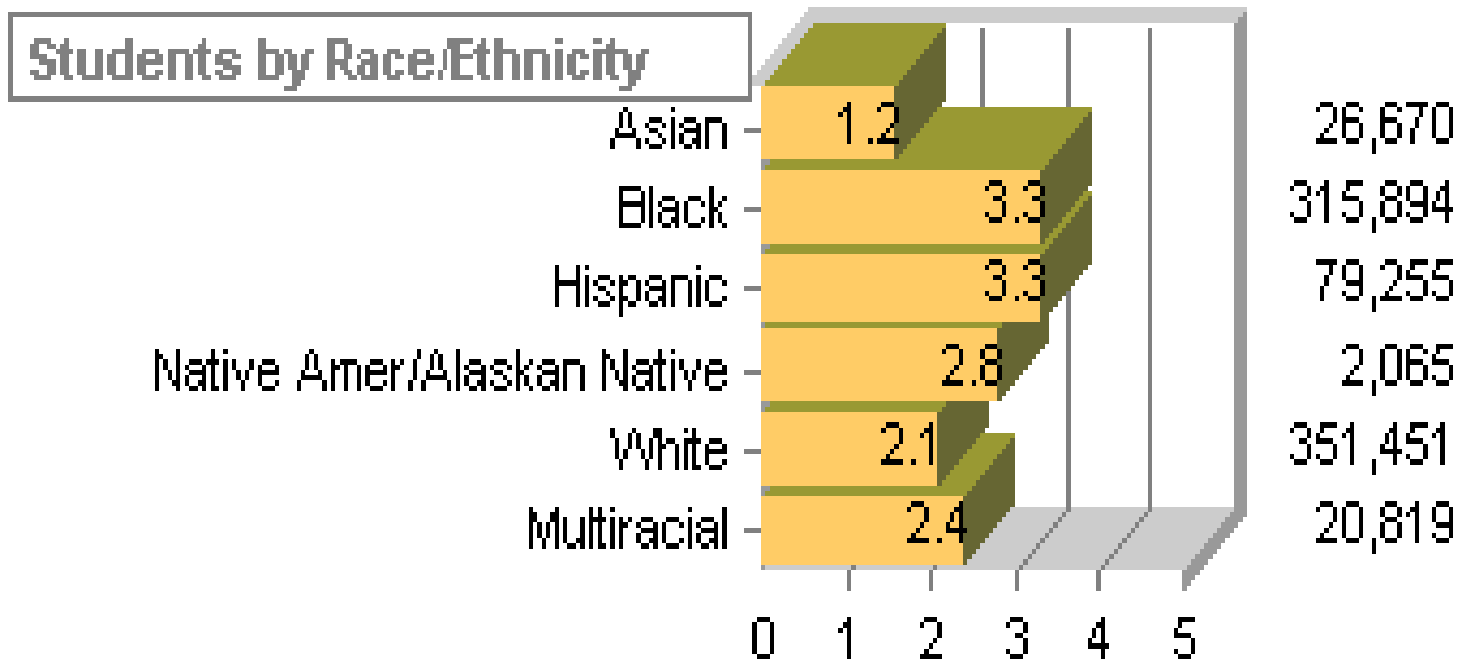


2010-2011 Graduation Rates by Other Subgroups



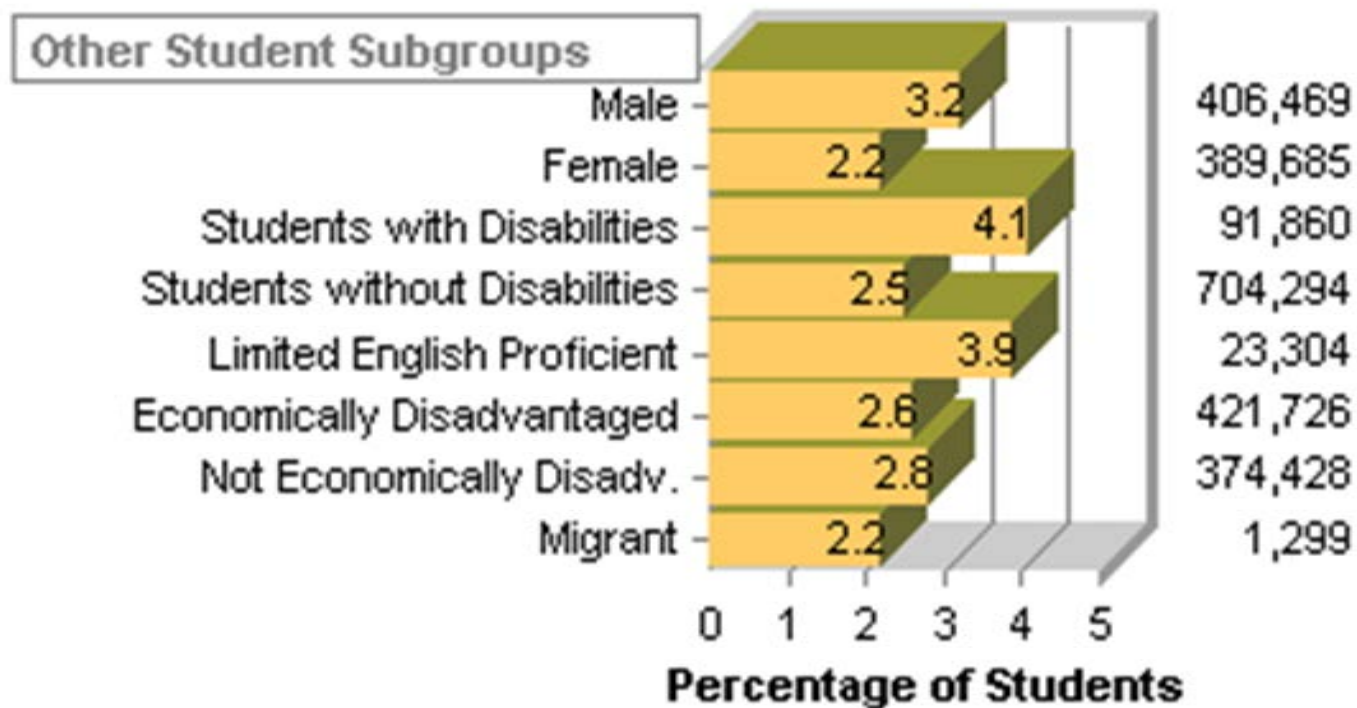
2010-2011 Dropout Rates

In the 201-2011 school year, Georgia had 796,154 students enrolled in grades 7-12. The dropout rate for these grades was 2.7%

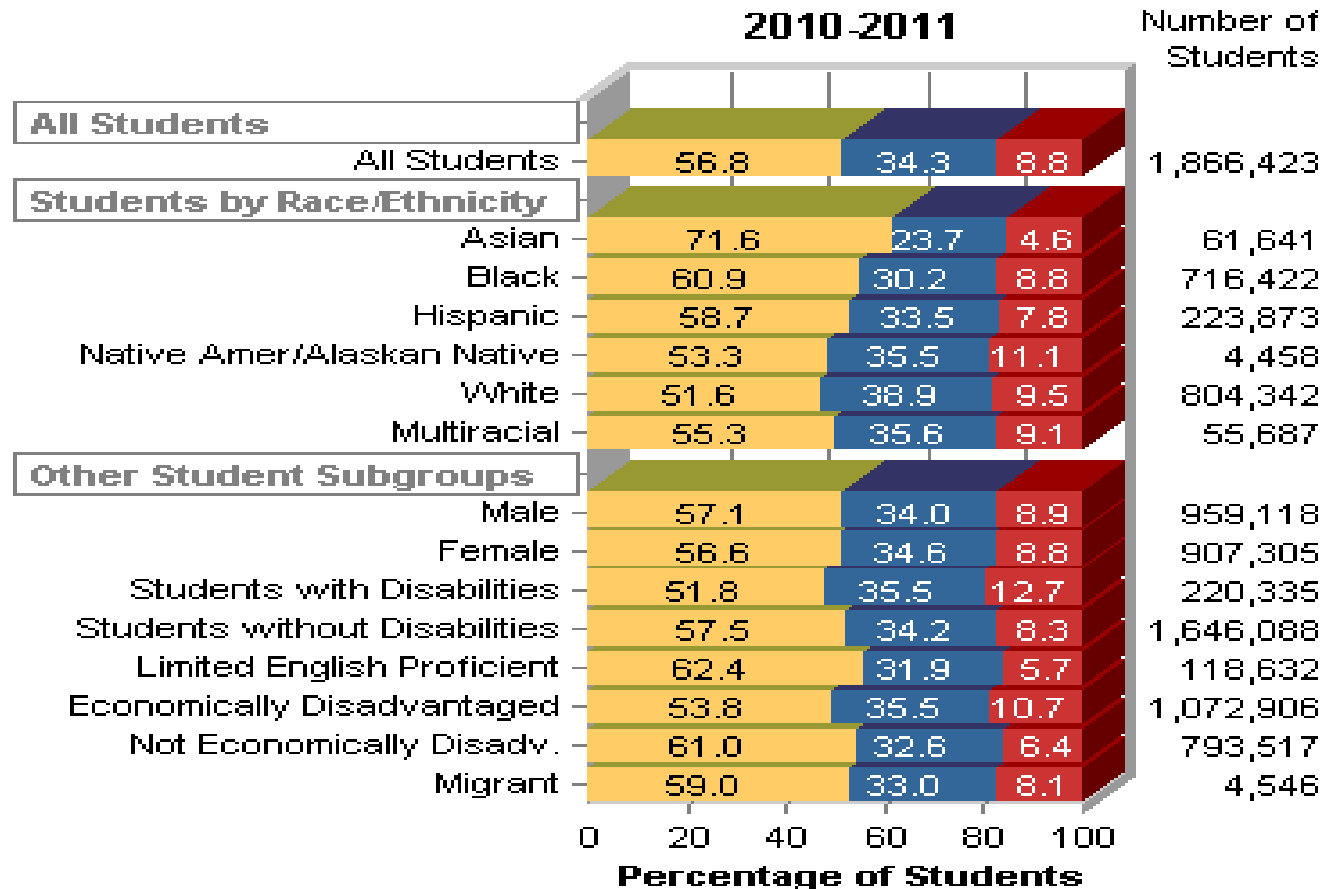


2010-2011 Dropout Rates

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2010-2011 School Attendance



Increased Graduation Rate

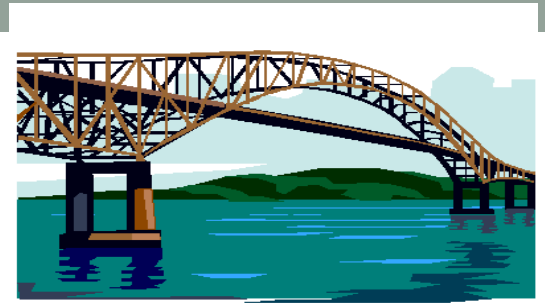
For the 2012 school year, Georgia is reporting a 2% increase in its graduation rate.

[2012 Georgia 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: 69.72%](#)

“I am very pleased that our graduation rate continues to increase, no matter how it is calculated,” said State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge. “While our graduation rate is still far too low and we have much progress to be made, we are moving in the right direction. In order to encourage more students to stay in school, we must make high school more relevant. Through our Career Pathways initiative, I am excited that students will see a clearer connection between what they learn in the classroom and how it applies to what they want to do after graduation.”

Georgia Department of Education, Media Release, May 21, 2013

What are we building?



Resourceful
Individuals =
Developed Georgia
Economy

Building Resourceful Individuals

- How should we measure resourceful?
 - [Georgia Teachers as Advisors Framework](#)
 - [American School Counselor Association Student Standards](#)
 - [Georgia Plan of Study Guidance](#)
 - [National Career Development Guidelines](#)
 - [Georgia College 411](#)
 - [Bridge Checklist](#)
 - [Occupation Information](#)
 - [Georgia Hot Careers to 2020](#)
 - [Information for First Generation College Bound Students](#)

Building Resourceful Individuals

- [Georgia Graduation Requirements](#)
- [Dual Enrollment Information](#)

Presidential Challenge

“By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world. So, tonight, I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training...every American will need to get more than just a high school diploma.”

*President Barack Obama
Address to Joint Session of Congress
February 24, 2009*

Miller Middle School Advisory Program

Design

- Advisement was scheduled for the first and third Monday of each month. The time was 7:50-8:40
- Each advisor was assigned 15 or less students. Advisors were our media assistant, school librarian, academic teachers, exploratory teachers, assistant principals, and school counselors. Students are assigned an advisor for a three year period. (Due to faculty and student departure, this is sometimes modified.)

Lessons

- Georgia College 411 lessons were used. Folders were made with the lessons at the beginning of each year and distributed to all staff members. Staff members were responsible for making their own copies of the lessons.

Challenges

- Rescheduling due to holidays, testing, and other activities
- Scheduling of sessions in relation to other events
- Students late to school, coming in middle of sessions
- Little professional development on advisement
- Teacher and Staff Buy-In
 - Viewing advisement as important and actually utilizing the time wisely.

Solutions

- During pre-planning, speak with your principal concerning an advisement schedule
- Request to do pre-planning training on advisory programs
- Contact Georgia College 411 to request a professional development day for teachers to learn how to utilize the site.
- Print lessons and make copies of student handouts for all teachers and staff.
- Administrator buy-in and focused walk troughs during the time that advisement takes place.

Student Comments

- “The schedule for advisement to be more organized. Instead of going to advisement every other Monday.”
- “In advisement, I learned about taking the consequence for yourself and not blaming others.”
- “I would like to do advisement again.”
- “To make it more fun and not boring.”
- “We could go to some colleges and visit workplaces and talk more about job planning and college degrees.”

Student Comments

- “We can have more advisement activities. We can have parties during advisement.”
- “Talk to the kids about more than education. Talk about better things”
- “We need more time because I might be interested in the lesson and we run out of time.”
- “Talk about something that is common.”
- “More hands-on work in smaller classes is needed.”

Evaluating Your Advisory Program

- Take ten minutes to evaluate the advisory program that is in operation at your school. Use provided rubric.

Learning from Others

- After ten minutes, you will partner with someone who scored in the two categories that you did not score. Answer the following questions:
 - What has been the biggest accomplishment/challenge of implementing your school's advisory program?
 - What is your role in the advisory program? Your staff? Your administration?
 - What are the best practices for advisement programs? Create a list of best practices.

Best Practices

Discussion

Plans for this 2013-2014 Year

- Ask principal to allow the counseling staff to do a one hour introduction to advisement
- Request that Georgia College 411 representatives come to our school to provide teachers with training
- Ask principal to build advisement days into the master schedule
- Make copies of handouts for advisors
- Have a thirty minute session on upcoming advisement lessons at the beginning of each grading period. Preview the lesson with teachers and discuss best practices
- Do quarterly teacher assessments to gauge their progress with implementing advisement

Georgia School Counselor Association

Upcoming Conferences:

GSCA Conference: November 13-15, Jekyll Island, Georgia

Region 7 Conference: Friday, February 7, 2014

Jasper, Putnam, Lamar, Monroe, Jones, Baldwin, Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Crawford, Peach, Houston, Macon, and Dooly

www.gaschoolcounselors.com