

# Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate

*Commission on Youth*

# Why the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate?

*... if shipping companies can track packages, schools should be able to trace the progress of students.*

**Bob Wise**

**Alliance for Excellent Education  
Washington Post, October 9, 2008**

# Legislative, Regulatory & Policy Background

## National Governors Association (NGA), 2005:

- NGA task force report recommends all states adopt graduation rate measuring on-time graduation with most students expected to earn diploma in 4 years

## Virginia General Assembly, 2006:

- HB 19, sponsored by Del. William Fralin, directs Board of Education to collect, analyze & report high school graduation data using formula reflecting NGA task force recommendations beginning October 2008

# Board of Education-Approved Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate

On-time diploma graduates in year x

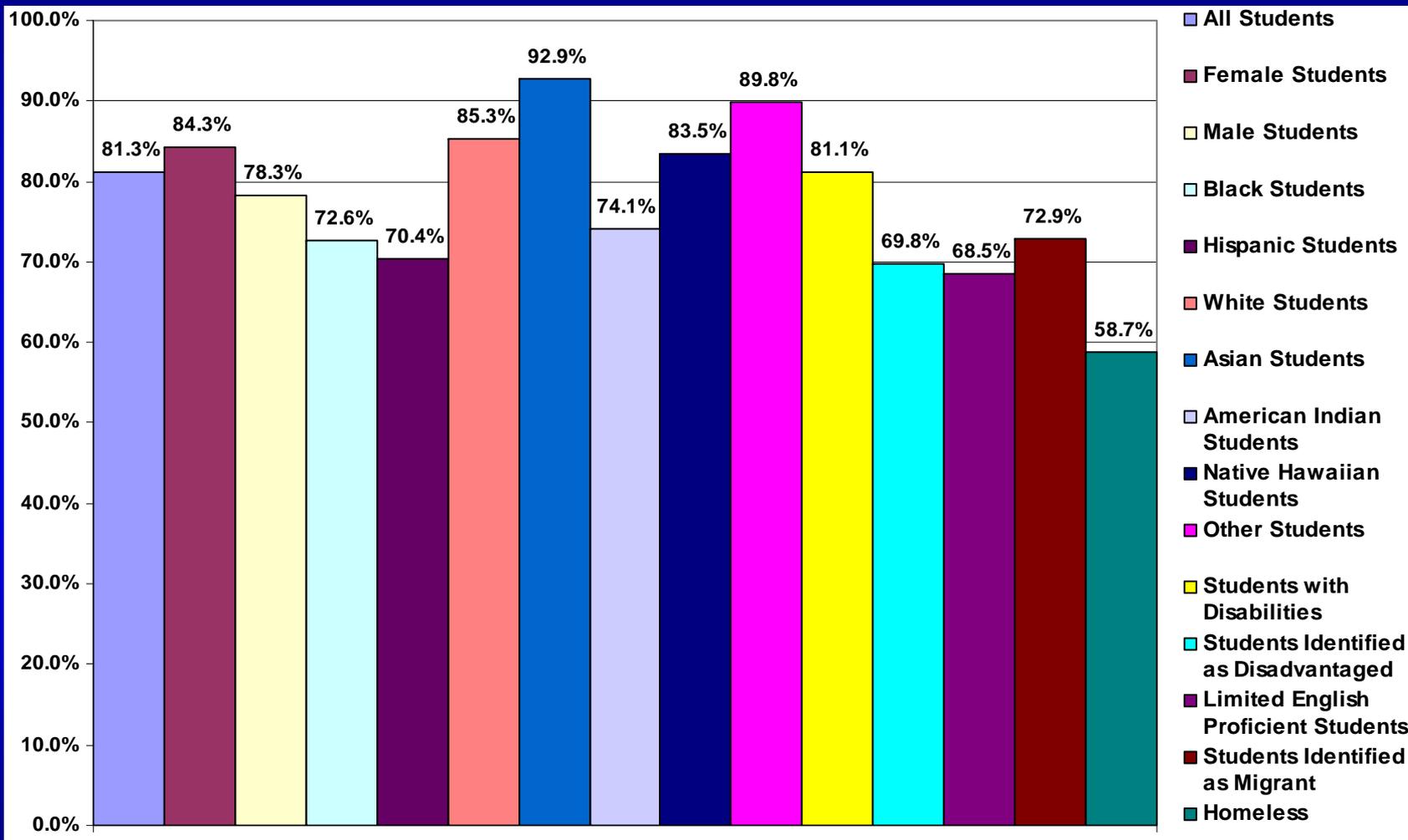
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[(First-time entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders in year x – 4) +  
(transfers in) – (transfers out & deceased)]

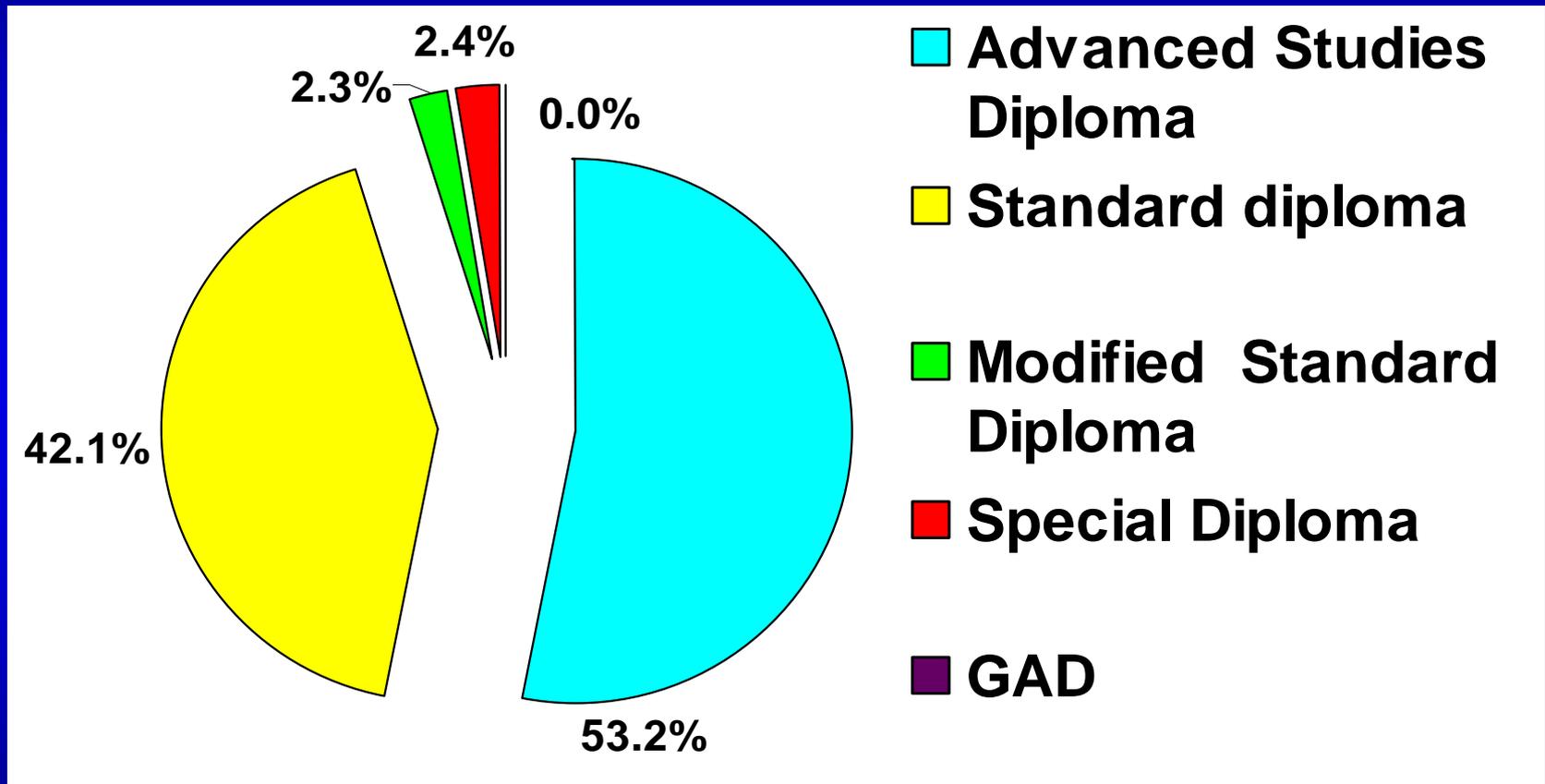
# Virginia On-Time Graduate Rate Class of 2008 Results

<i>Subgroup</i>	<i>Cohort Number</i>	<i>Earned Diploma</i>	<i>VA On-Time Graduation Rate</i>
All Students	96,979	78,805	81.3%
Female Students	48,134	40,566	84.3%
Male Students	48,845	38,239	78.3%
Black Students	26,058	18,922	72.6%
Hispanic Students	5,872	4,131	70.4%
White Students	58,750	50,097	85.3%
Asian Students	4,746	4,407	92.9%
American Indian Students	286	212	74.1%
Native Hawaiian Students	91	76	83.5%
Other Students	6,299	5,655	89.8%
Students with Disabilities	10,838	8,790	81.1%
Students Identified as Disadvantaged	21,435	14,965	69.8%
Limited-English Proficient Students	3,171	2,172	68.5%
Students Identified as Migrant	59	43	72.9%
Homeless	511	300	58.7%

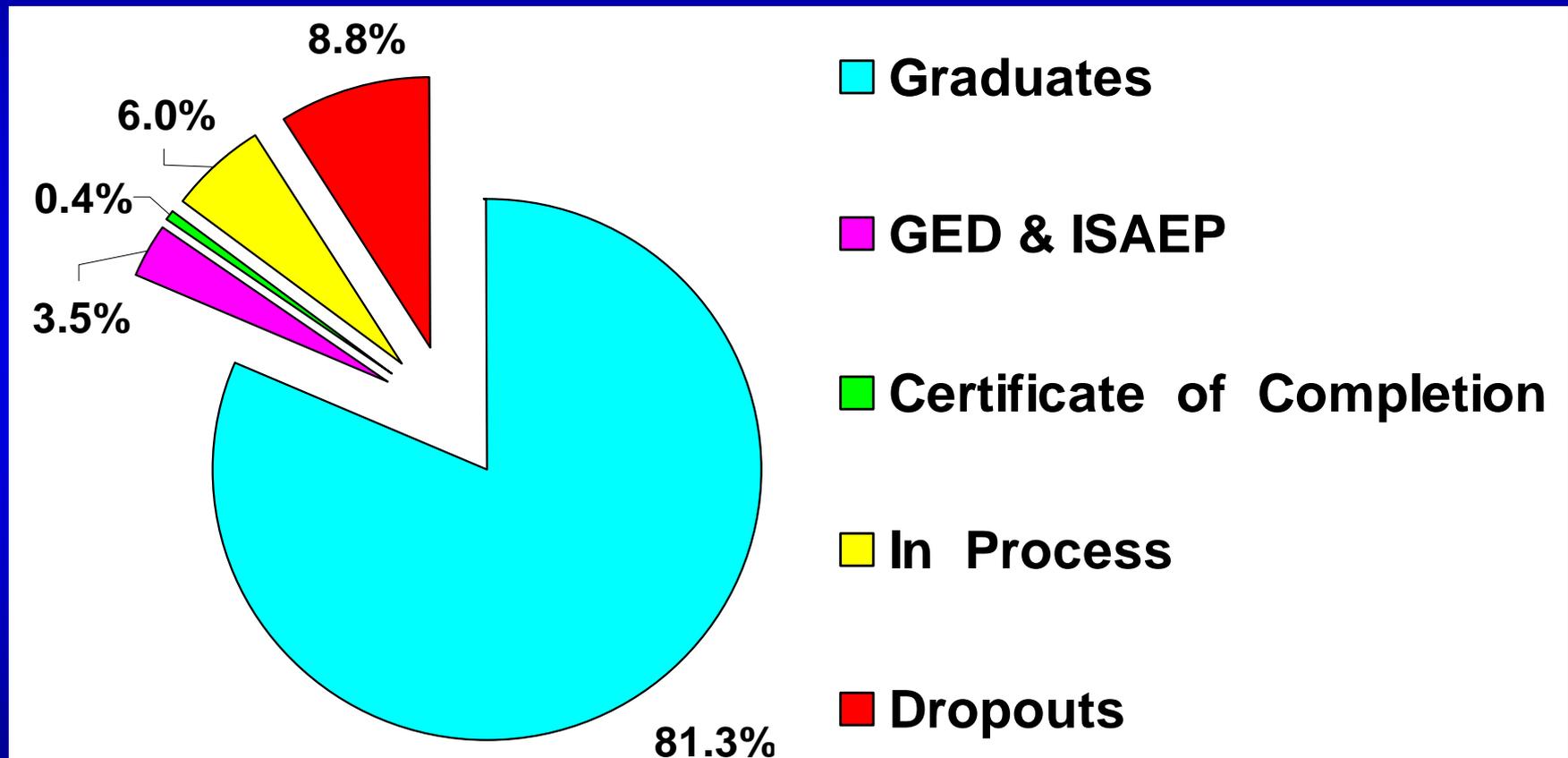
# Class of 2008 Graduates



# Class of 2008 Graduates



# Class of 2008 Cohort Results



# What about Dropouts?

- The dropout rate for a school or division ***is not*** the inverse of its Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate
- VDOE will calculate cohort dropout rates for schools & divisions in early 2009 after submission of 2007-2008 academic-year dropout data

# Reaction

*“We are better off than what we thought we were, but we are not as good as what we want to be.”*

**Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

*“What I worry about are the kids without the high school diploma. We’re now doing a much better job of tracking them, finding them and getting them reattached.”*

**Rita Bishop, Roanoke Superintendent**

*“There needs to be a really active role in state leadership and district leadership in ensuring ... the quality and accuracy of the data that gets fed into this calculation.”*

**Daria Hall, Education Trust**

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