

May 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion, and Employment and Earnings of Public High School Graduates Earning Traditional Diplomas



Prepared by Mississippi State University's NSPARC

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Mississippi's Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is one of the most comprehensive systems in the country and includes administrative records from more than 25 education, workforce, and human service agencies in the state. The SLDS allows for the alignment of multiple sources of de-identified administrative data over time to evaluate educational or workforce strategies in terms of real outcomes, such as entrance into employment, wages, and skill gains.

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OVERVIEW

This research brief provides summary information on postsecondary enrollment and completion, and employment and earnings of public high school graduates earning traditional diplomas.

This summary information was requested by Accelerate MS to support strategic planning pertaining to the state's workforce.

REQUEST¹

Accelerate MS has requested the following summary information on Mississippi public high school graduates, measured for a 5-year period and reported by year:

- The number and percentage who did not enroll in postsecondary education.
- The number and percentage who enrolled in postsecondary but didn't complete.
- The average earnings, 6 years after high school graduation, for those who did not enroll in postsecondary education.
- The average earnings, 6 years after HS graduation, for those who enrolled in postsecondary but didn't complete.

DATA

Data came from Mississippi's SLDS. Data from the following SLDS data stakeholders are included:

- Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)
- Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL)
- Mississippi Community Colleges
- Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES)

¹This request is for information on postsecondary enrollment and completion of Mississippi public high school graduates. The analysis includes information on student enrollment in Mississippi community colleges and public universities. Outcomes such as enrollment in private schools, enrollment in out-of-state schools, or joining the military are not included in this analysis.

METHODS

To satisfy this request, the following metrics were generated for students graduating from public high schools in academic years 2012 through 2016:

1. Number of public high school graduates who graduated with a traditional diploma.
2. Number and percentage from Item 1 who did not enroll in a Mississippi community college or public university within 1 year of high school graduation. Of these:
 - a. Number and percentage employed in the 6th year following high school graduation.
 - b. Annual earnings measured as both the mean and median.
3. Number and percent from Item 1 who enrolled in a Mississippi community college or public university within 1 year of high school graduation but who did not earn a degree within 6 years of high school graduation. Of these:
 - a. Number and percentage employed in the 6th year following high school graduation.
 - b. Annual earnings measured as both the mean and median.

In accordance with SLDS Rules and Regulations, numeric values less than 10 are suppressed along with the accompanying percentages. These suppressed values are replaced with the “<10” symbol, and the accompany percent is replaced with the “--” symbol. Additionally, information calculated using MDE data is suppressed if the percentage is either less than 5 percent or greater than 95 percent. Suppressed percentages are replaced with the “<5.00” and “>95.00” symbols, respectively, and the accompanying numeric values are replaced with the “--” symbol.

No value suppression was required for this report.

RESULTS

TABLE 1: OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO DID NOT ENROLL IN MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WITHIN 1 YEAR OF GRADUATION

Cohort	Total Graduates ²	Not Enrolled in Postsecondary ³		Employed in the 6 th Year ⁴		Earnings in the 6 th Year	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Median	Mean
2012	26,332	8,152	30.96	4,553	55.85	\$19,304	\$21,929
2013	26,487	8,146	30.75	4,532	55.63	\$20,605	\$23,161
2014	26,321	8,360	31.76	4,495	53.77	\$21,020	\$24,054
2015	27,802	9,011	32.41	4,913	54.52	\$22,033	\$25,085
2016	28,505	9,382	32.91	5,247	55.93	\$25,358	\$28,057
Total	135,447	43,051	31.78	23,740	55.14	\$21,545	\$24,576

TABLE 2: OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO ENROLLED IN MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WITHIN 1 YEAR BUT DID NOT EARN A DEGREE WITHIN 6 YEARS

Cohort	Total Graduates ¹	Enrolled, but No Degree within 6 Years ²		Employed in the 6 th Year ³		Earnings in the 6 th Year	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Median	Mean
2012	26,332	9,480	36.00	6,814	71.88	\$18,254	\$20,047
2013	26,487	9,122	34.44	6,457	70.78	\$19,496	\$21,223
2014	26,321	8,653	32.87	6,018	69.55	\$19,988	\$21,905
2015	27,802	9,070	32.62	6,164	67.96	\$21,626	\$24,145
2016	28,505	9,194	32.25	6,412	69.74	\$24,294	\$25,966
Total	135,447	45,519	33.61	31,865	70.00	\$20,463	\$22,632

² Includes public high school graduates who earned a traditional diploma.

³ High school graduates not enrolling in a Mississippi public postsecondary institution can experience other outcomes, such as enrolling in a private school, enrolling in an out-of-state school, or joining the military.

⁴ Includes employers participating in the Mississippi covered employment system.



SLDS

**Statewide Longitudinal
Data System**

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