



# 2022 Common Data Project Excerpt Economically Disadvantaged Students

Improving the Quality and Comparability of State Educational Data across New England



NEW ENGLAND  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
CONSORTIUM

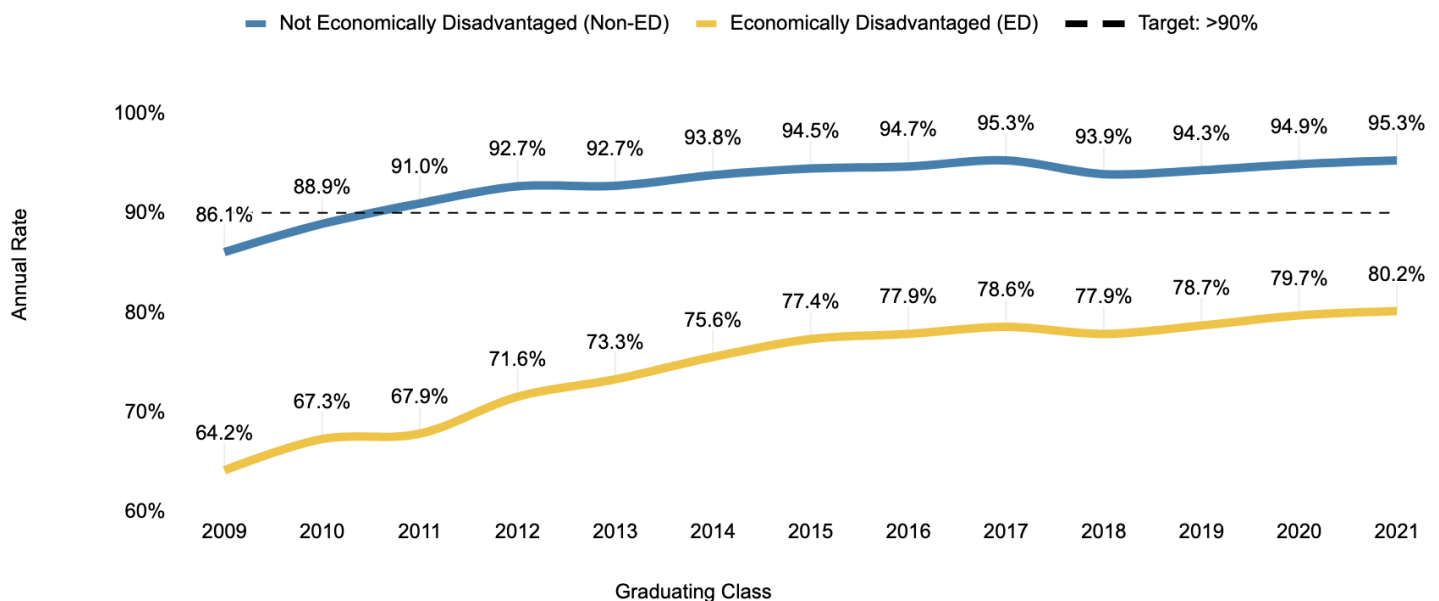
## Section I: High School Graduation (4-Year)

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

Since 2009, the graduation gap by economic disadvantage has narrowed by 7 percentage points.

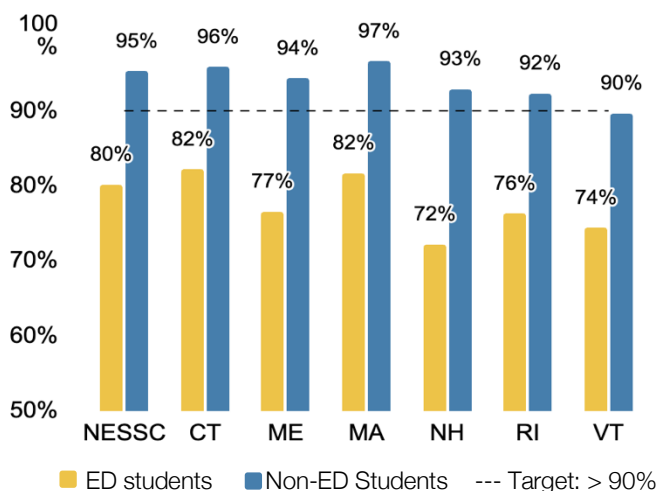
In the past 12 years, the 4-year high school graduation rate for economically disadvantaged (ED) students has increased by 16 points, compared to 9 points for non-economically disadvantaged (non-ED) students.

**High School Graduation (4-Year) Rates by Economic Status**



For the class of 2021, the gap in graduation rates between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students varied somewhat across states, ranging from 14 to 21 percentage points. This also represents a widening gap compared to the class of 2020, which ranged from 14 to 19 percentage points.

**Distance from the target by state (Class of 2021)**



**Graduation rate & number of graduates by state (2021)**

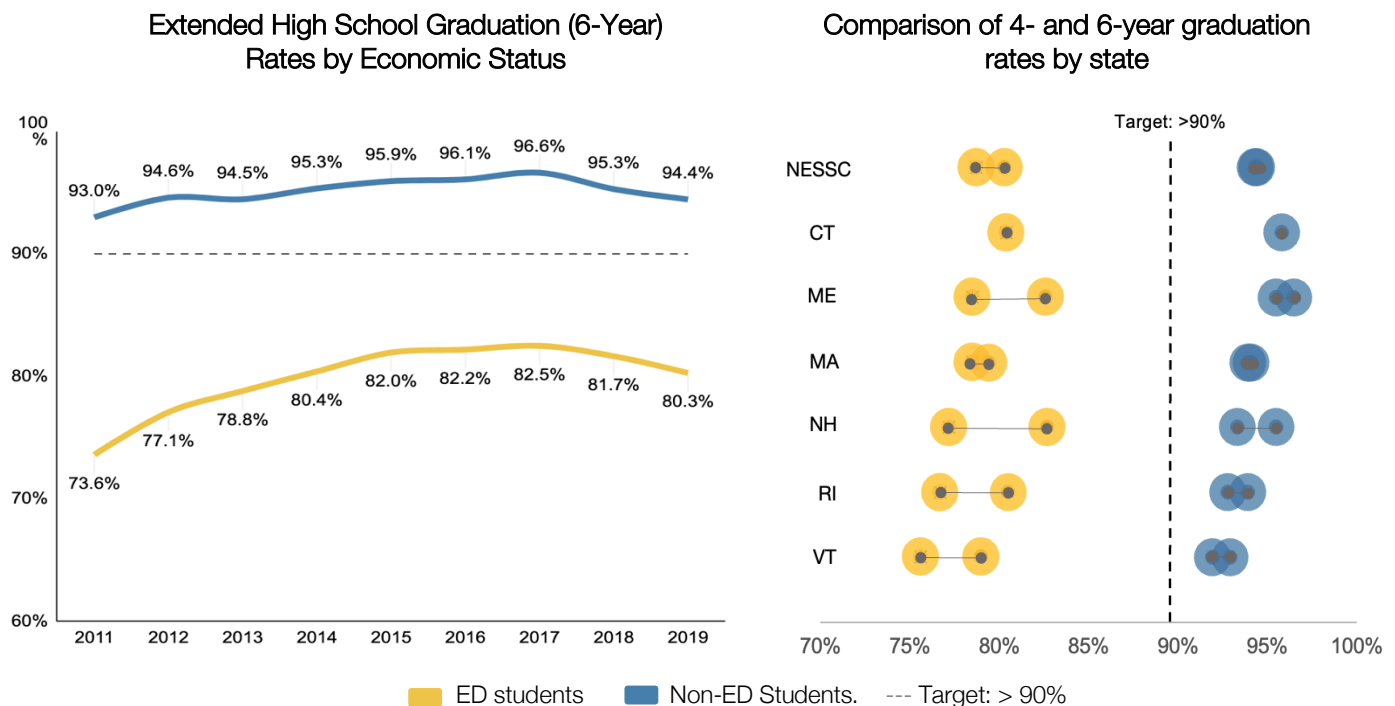
	ED Students		Non-ED Students	
NESSC	80.2%	57,167	95.3%	84,254
CT	82.2%	15,438	95.8%	21,396
ME	76.6%	4,925	94.3%	6,970
MA	81.7%	27,660	96.6%	38,981
NH	72.2%	2,743	92.9%	9,160
RI	76.3%	4,572	92.3%	4,808
VT	74.4%	1,829	89.7%	2,939

## Section II: Extended High School Graduation (6-Year)

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

The 6-year graduation rate increases considerably for economically disadvantaged students, while gains for non-economically disadvantaged students are more modest.

While a significant achievement gap remains between economically disadvantaged students and their peers, the extended graduation rate gap has narrowed by 5 percentage points since 2011.



4-year graduation rate, extended 6-year graduation rate, and number of graduates by state (Class of 2019)

	Economically Disadvantaged Students			Non-Economically Disadvantaged Students		
	4-year rate	6-year rate	6-year # of grads	4-year rate	6-year rate	6-year # of grads
NESSC	78.7%	80.3%	38,587	94.3%	94.4%	68,015
CT	80.4%	-	-	95.8%	-	-
ME	78.5%	82.6%	5,550	95.5%	96.5%	7,161
MA	78.5%	79.4%	22,595	93.9%	94.1%	43,854
NH	77.2%	82.7%	3,499	93.3%	95.5%	9,239
RI	76.7%	80.5%	5,008	92.8%	93.9%	4,727
VT	75.6%	79.0%	1,935	91.9%	92.9%	3,034

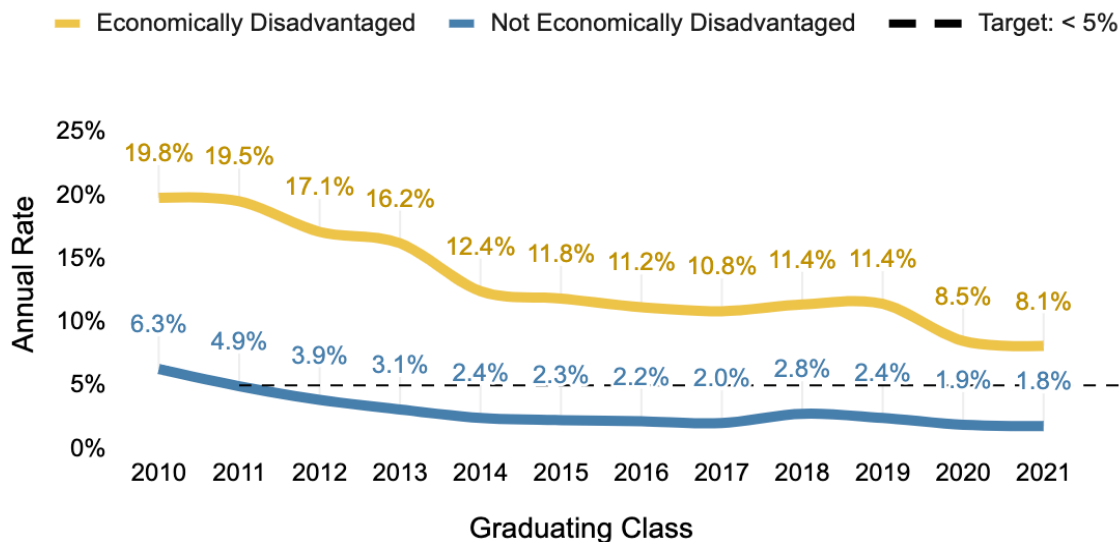
## Section III: High School Dropouts

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

The high school dropout rate among economically disadvantaged (ED) students has fallen by more than half, from 20% in 2010 to 8% in 2021. For students who are not economically disadvantaged (non-ED), dropout rates have declined from 6% to just less than 2%.

The gap in dropout rates for economically disadvantaged students has declined by 57%—from 14 to 6 percentage points—since 2010.

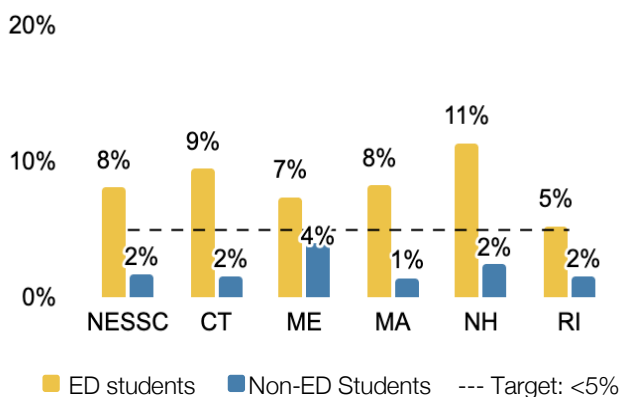
**High School Dropout Rates by Economic Status**



For the class of 2021, students who are not economically disadvantaged have met the NESSC target of dropout rates below the 5% target in all states, with a range of 1.5% in Massachusetts to 4.0% in Maine. Dropout rates among economically disadvantaged students remain above the target, ranging from less than 1 to more than 6 percentage points above the target across the region.

*Note: In the dropout rate bar graph below, the aim is to be below the 5% target. For all other indicators discussed in this report (e.g., graduation rate, college enrollment) the aim is to be above the target.*

**Distance from target by state (Class of 2021)**



**Dropout rate & number of dropouts by state (2021)**

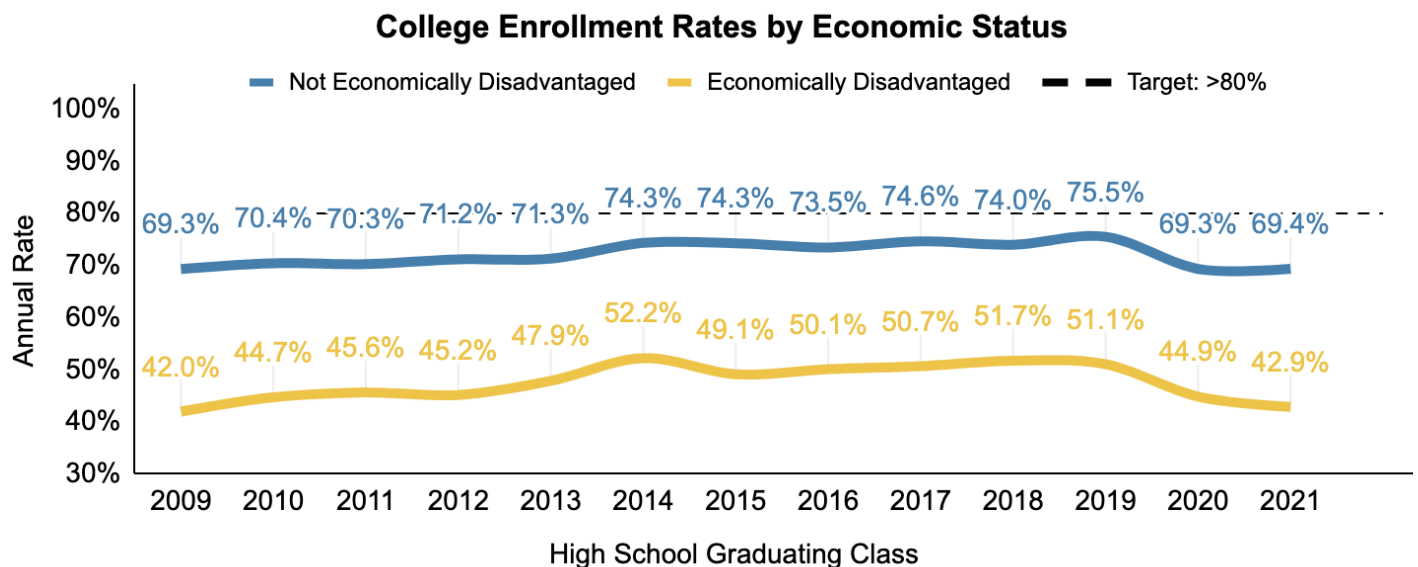
	ED Students		Non-ED Students	
NESSC	8.1%	5,786	1.9%	1,578
CT	9.5%	1,776	1.5%	358
ME	7.4%	476	1.9%	298
MA	8.2%	2,785	2.1%	599
NH	11.4%	432	1.9%	239
RI	5.3%	317	3.1%	84
VT	-	-	-	-

## Section IV: College Enrollment

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

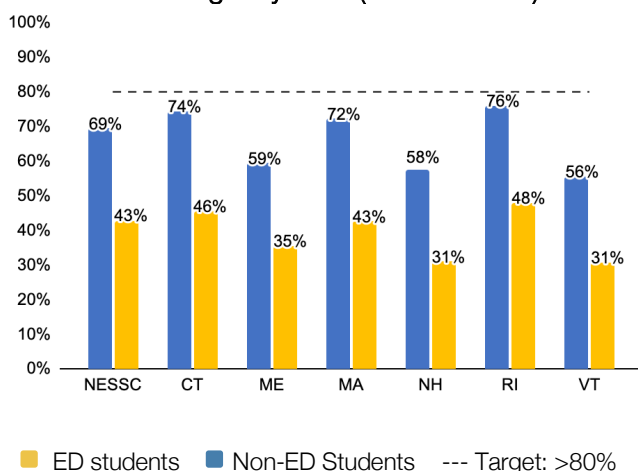
The college enrollment rate for economically disadvantaged (ED) students in New England increased by 9 percentage points between 2009 and 2019. Since 2019, this rate has dropped 8 percentage points, landing at 43% for 2021. Rates for non-economically disadvantaged (non-ED) students enrolled in college had also been on the rise through 2019, but declined to 69% in 2020 and remained steady in 2021.

The gap in college enrollment between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students has dropped from 27 to 24 percentage points.



For the high school graduating class of 2021, no state met the NESSC 80% target of college enrollment for either student group. For non-ED students, NESSC states were between 4 percentage points and 24 percentage points below the target of 80%; for ED students, states ranged from 32 percentage points to 49 percentage points below the target.

Distance from target by state (Class of 2021)



Enrollment rate & number of students by state (2021)

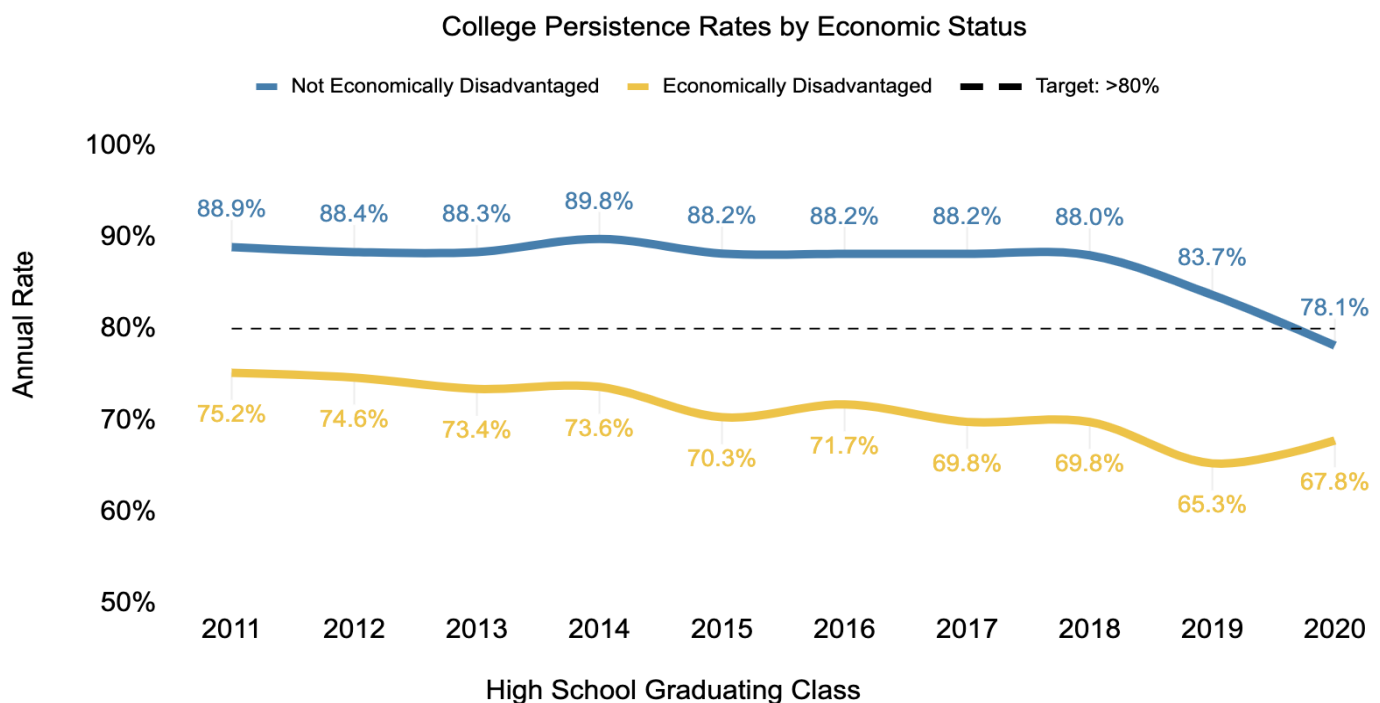
	ED Students		Non-ED Students	
NESSC	42.9%	23,487	69.4%	63,491
CT	45.6%	7,533	74.4%	15,981
ME	35.5%	1,227	59.4%	5,224
MA	42.6%	11,472	72.3%	30,374
NH	30.9%	504	57.7%	6,141
RI	48.0%	2,315	75.9%	3,721
VT	30.7%	436	55.6%	2,050

## Section V: College Persistence

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

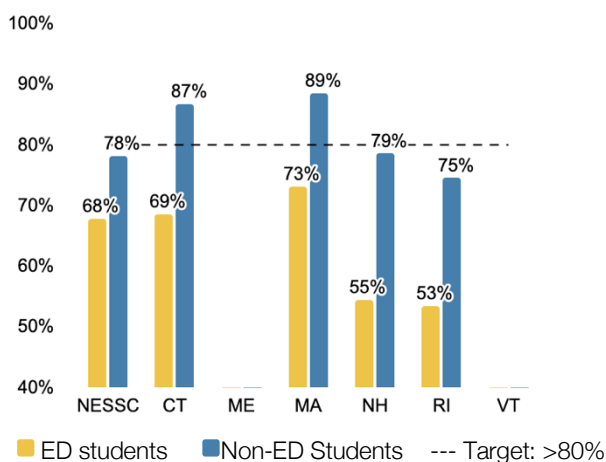
The college persistence gap between economically disadvantaged (ED) and non-economically disadvantaged (non-ED) students experienced a narrowing for the first time in five years among those who entered college in 2020 and persisted in 2021. The difference in persistence rates decreased from 19 percentage points the previous year to 10 percentage points this year. This narrowing was the result of both the persistence rate for non-ED students falling, yet rising for ED students.

Regardless, economically disadvantaged students who entered college in 2020 persisted in college at lower rates across the region (68%) as compared to those who entered in 2011 (75%).



When observing data at the state level, the rate of college persistence for students entering college in 2020 ranges by 14 points for non-economically disadvantaged students. For economically disadvantaged students, this range widens to 20 points. Additionally, the target of 80% was not met by economically disadvantaged students in any of the reporting NESSC states.

Distance from target by state (College Entry Year 2020)



Persistence rate & number of students by state (2020)

	ED Students		Non-ED Students	
NESSC	67.8%	17,460	78.1%	50,234
CT	68.5%	6,150	86.7%	14,290
ME	-	-	-	-
MA	73.2%	8,632	88.5%	27,447
NH	54.5%	843	78.6%	5,248
RI	53.4%	1,835	74.5%	3,249
VT	-	-	-	-

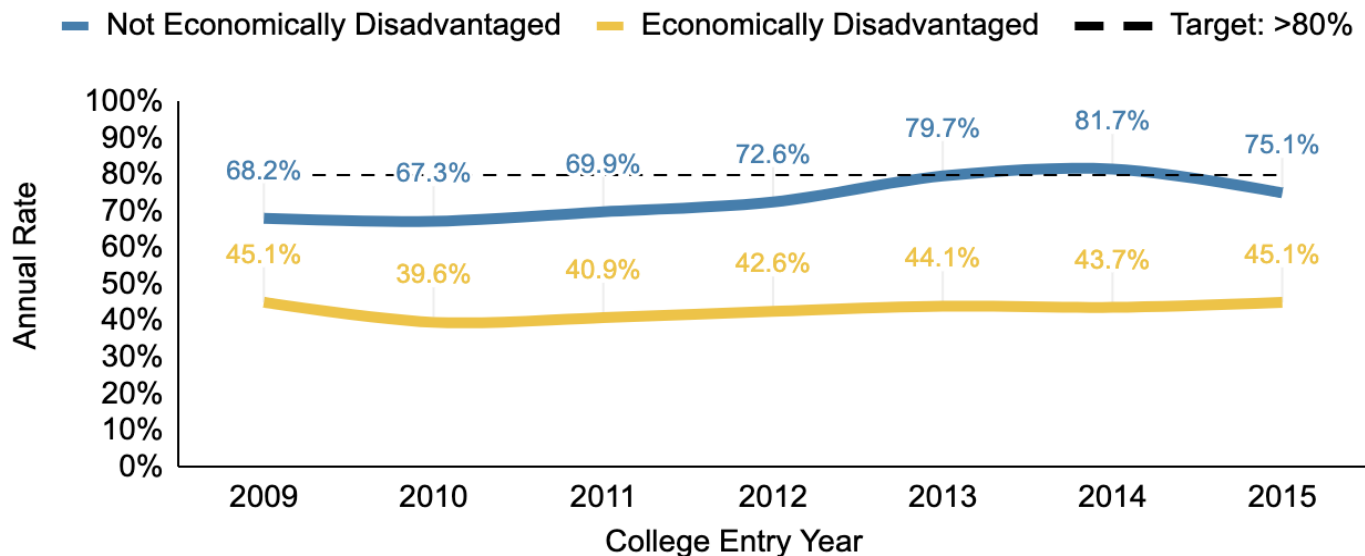


## Section VI: College Completion

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

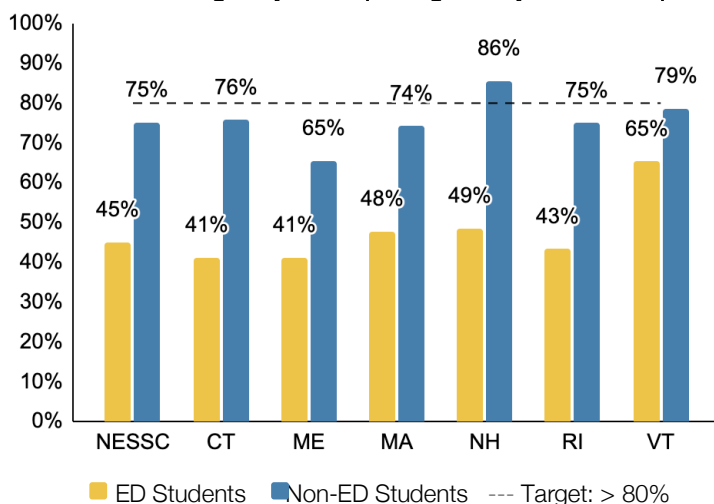
College completion by economically disadvantaged (ED) students—nearly a quarter of the college-entering class across the region in 2015—trails that of their non-economically disadvantaged (non-ED) peers by 30 percentage points.

College Completion Rates by Economic Status



Neither economically disadvantaged nor non-economically disadvantaged students have met the NESSC target of 80% college completion. The college completion gap between economically disadvantaged students and their peers ranges from 14 percentage points in Vermont to 37 percentage points in New Hampshire.

Distance from target by state (College Entry Year 2015)



Completion rate & number of graduates by state (2015)

	ED Students		Non-ED Students	
NESSC	45.1%	10,928	75.1%	57,839
CT	41.2%	3,320	75.8%	14,923
ME	41.2%	787	65.5%	4,242
MA	47.8%	4,136	74.2%	27,585
NH	48.6%	810	85.6%	5,923
RI	43.2%	1,374	75.0%	2,835
VT	65.3%	501	78.6%	2,331