



Northwest Territories High School Graduation Rate 2024

Graduating high school is more critical today than it was even a generation ago. More employers are looking for job candidates who have finished high school. Statistics across Canada indicate that there is a strong relationship between having a high school diploma and having a higher income.

The NWT uses a [Six-Year High School Graduation Rate](#), which reflects the Government of the Northwest Territories' philosophy that there are many paths to graduation beyond the traditional three-year time frame. The current Graduation Rate [methodology](#) allows students up to six years to graduate and ensures that all students, no matter their circumstances, have a chance to be counted in the graduation rate.

What the results tell us

In 2024, the Six-Year Graduation Rate for the NWT was 59% (Table 1). The Six-Year Graduation Rate has remained relatively stable over the last decade.

When we look at it by community type, Yellowknife had the highest graduation rate, with 71% (Table 1). The graduation rate in small communities was the lowest at 44%. This trend, of Yellowknife having the highest rate and small communities having the lowest, has held true for the last 10 years (Figure 1).

The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students Six-Year Graduation Rates has remained around 30-40% (Figure 2).

Since the graduation rate allows students up to six years to complete high school, the group of students (cohort) represented in the 2024 rate started high school in the 2018-19 academic year. This means the COVID-19 pandemic and other unplanned events, such as major flooding and wildfires, would have impacted years two through six of this cohort’s six-year completion window. Since the graduation rates have remained relatively stable, this could suggest that these events did not greatly impact high school graduation rates in the NWT. ECE will continue to monitor this indicator for emerging trends.

Table 1: Six-Year High School Graduation Rate by Community Type* (2015-2024)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NWT	54%	57%	62%	57%	61%	58%	60%	56%	59%	59%
Small Communities	42%	40%	45%	44%	47%	43%	45%	38%	44%	44%
Regional Centres	50%	54%	65%	61%	53%	59%	55%	65%	57%	58%
Yellowknife	67%	73%	73%	66%	75%	69%	74%	67%	71%	71%

*Regional centres include Inuvik, Hay River, and Fort Smith. Small communities include all NWT communities outside of regional centres and Yellowknife.

Table 2: Six-Year High School Graduation Rate by Ethnicity (2015-2024)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Indigenous	42%	46%	50%	47%	48%	46%	49%	42%	44%	45%
Non-Indigenous	79%	80%	84%	79%	84%	81%	81%	80%	87%	84%

Figure 1: Six-Year High School Graduation Rate by Community Type (2015-2024)

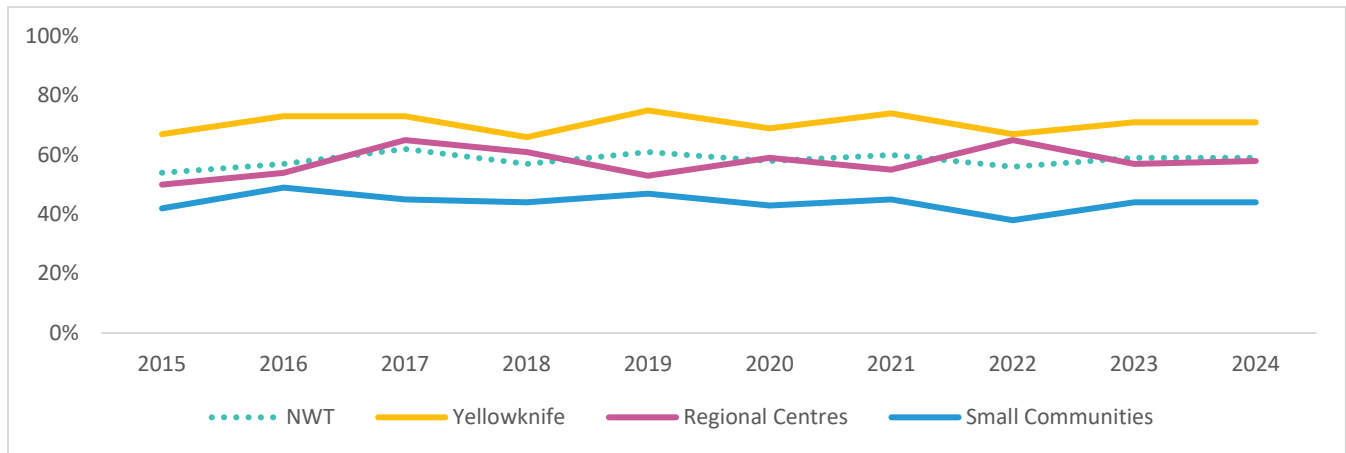
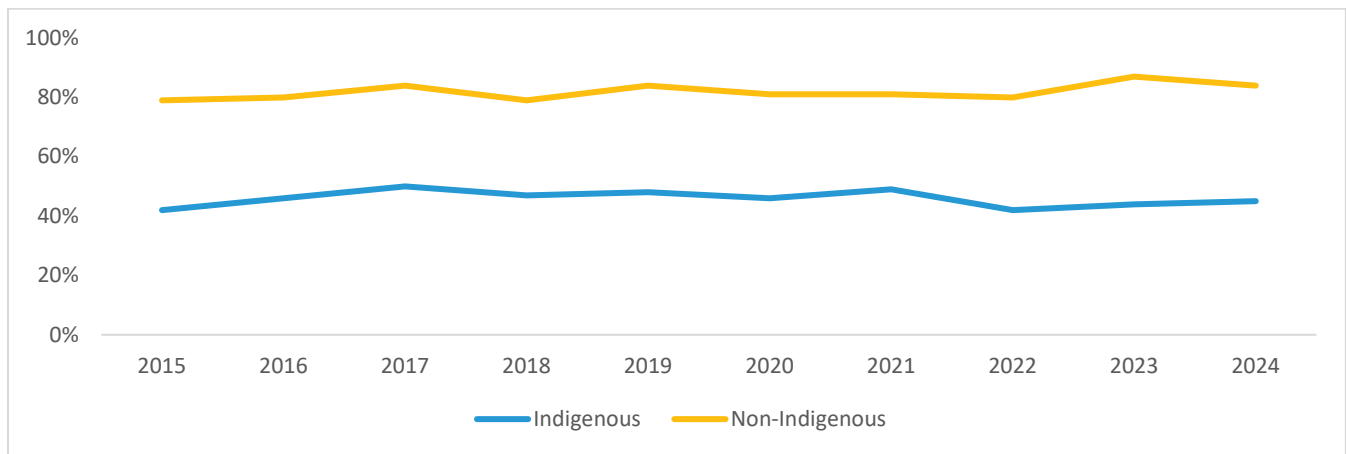


Figure 2: Six-Year High School Graduation Rate by Ethnicity (2015-2024)



In Summary

Graduation rates are important indicators of the overall effectiveness of the NWT education system. They are monitored annually and used to inform the Department’s strategic planning and actions to improve student outcomes.

Graduation rates will continue to be shared with education partners, Indigenous governments, and the public as ECE continues its work to improve student outcomes across the NWT.