

TRENDS ANALYSIS: HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the percentage of grade 8 students who complete high school within six years. Six-year completion rates are reported at the school district level, and combine public and independent schools. There are 109 public schools and 14 independent schools in the Basin-Boundary region. Data for this indicator were acquired from the B.C. Ministry of Education's [district reports](#). Six-year completion rates are reported for all students, as well as for male, female, Aboriginal, English Language Learning, and Special Needs students.

Education is a key social determinant of health (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2013). High school completion rates indicate how successful our families, schools, and communities are in supporting youth in achieving high school graduation. High school graduation is now the minimum education level for most employment options, and therefore an important foundation for positive work place conditions and future employment success and well-being (Mikkonen & Raphael, 2010). High school completion is important to ensure that citizens have the basic skills to participate actively in society.

What are the trends & current conditions?

The average high school completion rate from 2006 to 2013 is above the provincial average for four of the seven school districts in our region. As shown in Table 1, Revelstoke consistently shows higher completion rates than the provincial level, along with Boundary for all but the 2012/13 school year. Revelstoke, Boundary, and Arrow Lakes districts have completion rates of 90% and higher in at least two of the years. Kootenay Lake shows completion rates lower than the provincial average for the past six school years. Other districts show variability in completion rates with some years higher than the B.C. average and some lower. Visit the [Digital Basin](#) for a region wide map of this data, found under the Education & Learning theme of the social pillar.

Percent High School Completion Rate for All Students								
District	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Average 2006-2013
Southeast Kootenay (SD5)	81.5	84.2	74.2	80.8	75.0	76.9	79.4	78.9
Kootenay Lake (SD8)	80.3	75.5	77.8	74.0	76.0	78.5	75	76.7
Kootenay-Columbia (SD20)	82.2	78.7	82.8	83.9	80.1	77.4	83.9	81.3
Rocky Mountain (SD6)	82	85.7	78.0	79.3	81.3	78.8	76.5	80.2
Revelstoke (SD19)	82.6	80.2	88.2	97.9	87.4	88.4	90.1	87.8
Arrow Lakes (SD10)	90.9	75.1	84.5	88.1	93.7	92.2	82.6	86.7
Boundary (SD51)	81.1	84	83.8	85.4	94.2	93.7	82.1	86.3
BC Schools	80.1	78.8	79.2	79.7	81.0	81.8	83.6	80.6

Table 1: High school completion rates and average from 2006 – 2013, by School District
Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2014

Based on a trendline analysis, the general trend over the last seven school years for Revelstoke, Arrow Lakes, and Boundary is a rise in high school completion rates. Southeast Kootenay, Kootenay Lake, and Rocky Mountain show a general decrease, and Kootenay-Columbia is fairly steady. There are many factors that influence high school completion rates. Strong enough trends in completion rates do not exist in order to make causal conclusions for any of the school districts in our region.

Table 2 shows the average percent completion rate of students whether female, male, Aboriginal, or Special Needs over the last five school years (2008/09 to 2012/13). In general, completion rates are higher for females than males. Arrow Lakes shows the highest completion rate for females with 94% on average. Revelstoke shows the highest completion rate for males with 89.4%; Southeast Kootenay shows the lowest completion rate for males at 74.2%. Average high school completion rates for Aboriginal students are generally lower, although Boundary shows the highest completion rate at 80.9%. Special Needs students' completion rates are the lowest with the lowermost at 50.9% in Kootenay-Columbia and the uppermost in Arrow Lakes at 69.4%. Data for English Language Learning (ELL) was only available for Kootenay Lake, which shows an average of 29.5% completion, and for Rocky Mountain which has a 62.8% completion rate on average for ELL students.

Average High School Completion Rates by Student Type (2008/09 to 2012/13)				
District	Average % completion for females	Average % completion for males	Average % completion for Aboriginal students	Average % completion for Special Needs students
Southeast Kootenay (SD5)	80.5	74.2	64.5	56.3
Kootenay Lake (SD8)	76.2	76.4	63.7	57.6
Kootenay-Columbia (SD20)	82.9	80.4	63.2	50.9
Rocky Mountain (SD6)	80.6	77.3	69.4	51.2
Revelstoke (SD19)	90.2	89.4	69.1	66.6
Arrow Lakes (SD10)	94.0	82.8	76 *	69.4 **
Boundary (SD51)	90.2	85.6	80.9	65.5

Table 2: Average high school completion rates by student type, by district, 2008 – 2013

* based on only 2008/09

** based on 2008 – 2011

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2014



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

References

BC Ministry of Education. (2014). District Reports. Retrieved from <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district.php>.

Mikkonen, J., & Raphael, D. (2010). *Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts*. Toronto: York University School of Health Policy and management.

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