



# Knocking at the College Door

## Projections of High School Graduates

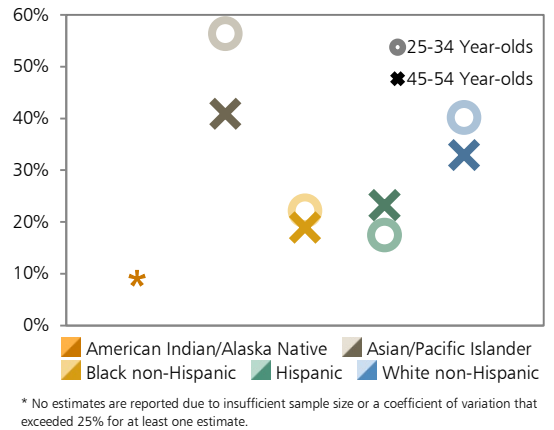
# MISSISSIPPI

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Mississippi related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

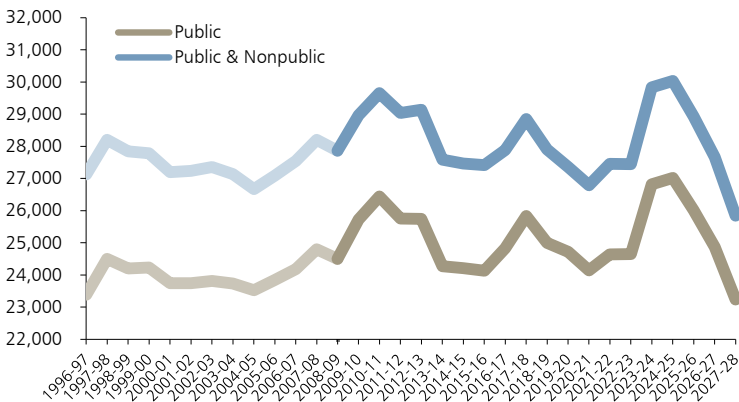
### Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

Workforce projections indicate there will be a growing demand for well-educated labor, which means that younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In Mississippi between 2008 and 2010, overall 32% of younger adults (aged 25-34) had at least an associate's degree, compared to 28% of older adults (aged 45-54).

- Younger adults of White non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander origin have higher degree attainment rates than the state average, and 7% and 16% more young adults hold degrees than older adults in these groups, respectively.
- But younger and older adults who are Black non-Hispanic or Hispanic are less likely to have a postsecondary degree than others overall, and younger Hispanics have particularly low rates of degree attainment.
- Due to small sample sizes, no estimates were available for American Indians/Alaska Natives.



### Production of High School Graduates

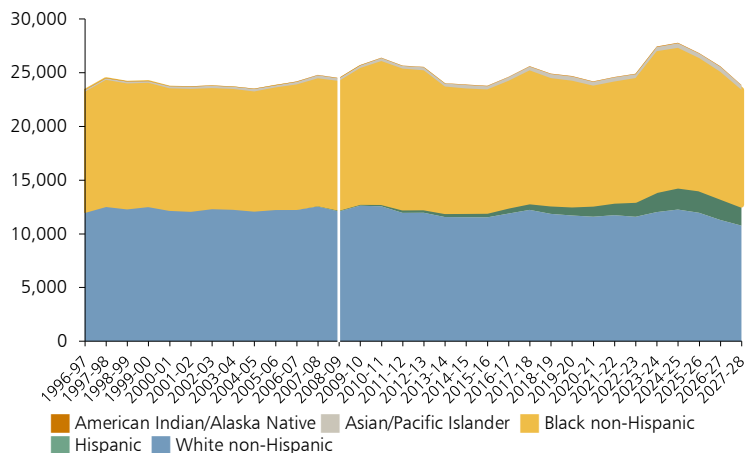


Mississippi was producing a relatively stable number of high school graduates, between 27,000 and 28,000 per year, as it entered the period covered by these projections. According to these projections, it experiences a brief surge between 2009-10 and 2012-13, going above 29,000 for several years, before mostly evening out again between 27,000 and 28,000 graduates through 2022-23. It will then have a few years of graduating classes at or above 29,000 before beginning a decline.

There were 3,400 nonpublic graduates from Mississippi in 2008-09, about 11% of the total, and Mississippi is projected to produce between 2,600 and 3,400 nonpublic graduates per year throughout the projected period, steadily between 10% to 12% of the total in any year.

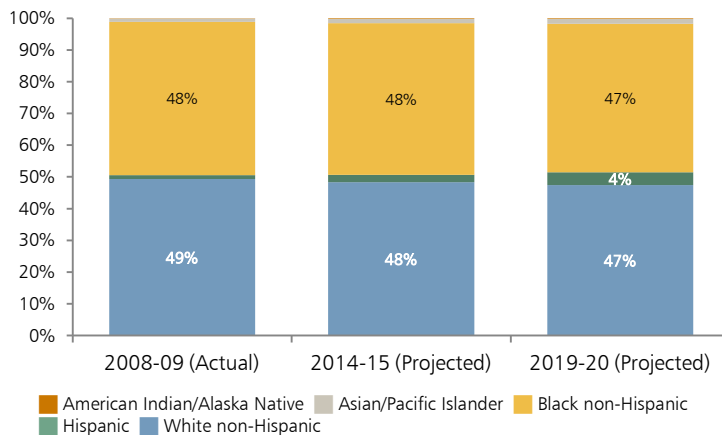
### Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- Mississippi's public graduating classes are almost evenly comprised of Black and White non-Hispanic graduates, 11,800 and 12,000 respectively in 2008-09. According to the projections, there will be sporadic growth and contraction but still an average of close to 12,000 graduates per year from each group.
- Hispanics are the only group projected to clearly expand in number, tripling from around 300 in 2008-09 to almost 1,000 by 2019-20, and then increasing to 2,200 by 2025-26.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders double, from about 240 in 2008-09 to 385 in 2019-20, and then 400 or more in the last several projected years.

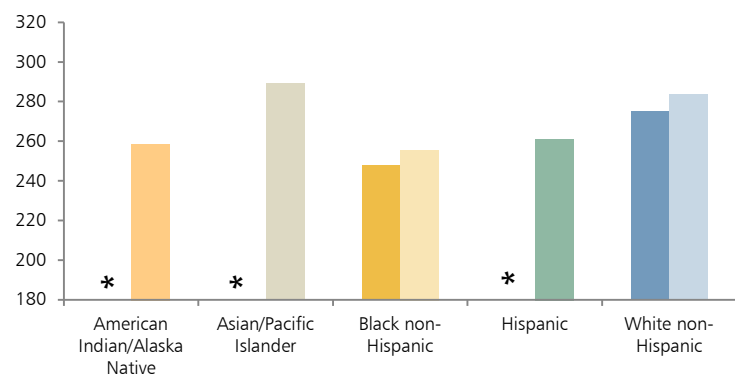


## Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- The vast majority of Mississippi’s public high school graduates are Black non-Hispanics and White non-Hispanics for most of the projected years, for example, 48% and 49%, respectively, in 2008-09, and then 47% each by 2019-20.
- Increase in the number of Hispanic graduates drives most of any change in these proportions. Hispanic graduates were 1% of the total in 2008-09, will increase to 4% by 2019-20, and then 8% in the last several projected years, during which Black and White non-Hispanics therefore decrease to 45% each of the total graduates.



## Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup>



Note: Mississippi in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. \*Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

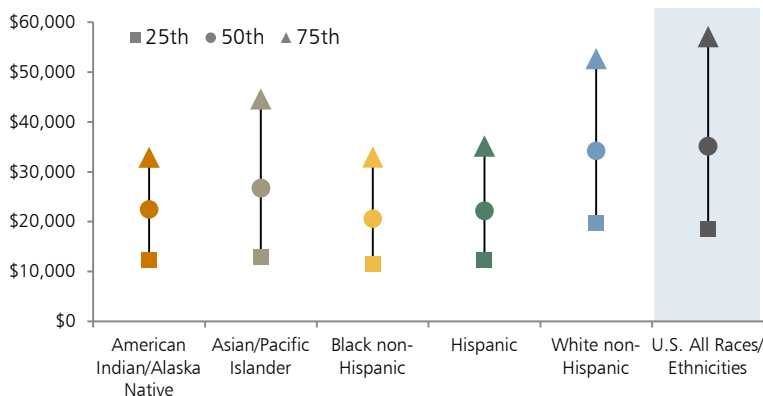
Academic preparation is a major factor in college access and success, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides some measure of differences by race/ethnicity.

- No scores were available for American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders or Hispanics. Of the available scores for eighth graders in Mississippi in 2011, the average composite math and reading scores were 248 for Black non-Hispanics and 275 for White non-Hispanics.
- Black non-Hispanics clearly lagged White non-Hispanics, by a wide margin, while White non-Hispanics in Mississippi scored lower than the national average for their group by 8 points.

## Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup>

A second major factor is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. The statewide median income for Mississippi from 2006 to 2010 was \$28,447, substantially below the national median of \$35,147.

Precise estimates are difficult to come by for smaller populations, so comparisons between groups can be problematic. However, the estimates suggest that White non-Hispanics earn considerably more than the statewide median (\$34,215). Median incomes of underrepresented populations in Mississippi – American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic – are all three-quarters or less of the statewide median.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at <http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes>.

<sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate’s degree or higher in 2008-10.

<sup>2</sup>Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>. Notes: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 8th graders tested in 2011, scale of 0 to 500; scores for 12th graders taking NAEP were not available for this state.

<sup>3</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. Note: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with \$0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

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