

RCSD June graduation rate rises slightly

Rate

Other big cities' rates in NY remain much higher

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The Rochester School District's June graduation rate rose slightly to 45.5 percent in 2015, according to new data from the New York state Education Department.

The rate was 43.4 percent in June 2014 and 43 percent in June 2013. Even with the gain, Rochester's rate remains significantly lower than those in Buffalo, Syracuse, New York City or Yonkers.

The August rate, which includes students who finish their coursework during summer school, remained flat at 51 percent.

There were also incremental gains in the graduation rates for students with disabilities (26 percent in June, up from 22 percent) and English language learners (17 percent, up from 12 percent).

"We're never happy," Deputy Superintendent for Instruction Christiana Otuwa said Monday. "We want all our students to be successful. We can only go up from here."

The five-year graduation rate (in-

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cluding students who were due to graduate in 2014 but took an extra year) was 57 percent.

Elsewhere in Monroe County, eight school districts had at least 95 percent of their students graduate by August and seven more were between 90 percent and 95 percent. Only East Rochester (82 percent) and Gates Chili (86 percent) were lower than that. The countywide August graduation rate, counting the city and suburbs, was 82 percent.

As for the state, its graduation rate continued to inch up in 2015, marking a slight increase for the third consecutive year.

A total of 78.1 percent of New York public-school students graduated on time last June, marking a slight increase from the 76.4 percent in 2014, according to the state Education Department.

The statewide graduation rate has seen incremental gains in recent years, rising from 74.9 percent in 2013 after it stayed flat at 74 percent in 2011 and 2012. Wide gaps remain across individual school districts. Among the state's largest districts, Yonkers schools saw a jump from 68.8 percent in 2014 to 74.2 percent last year, according to state data.

The data examines students who entered ninth grade in 2011 and graduated by June 2015. It's the second

graduating class that entered high school after the state adopted the Common Core standards in 2010.

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