

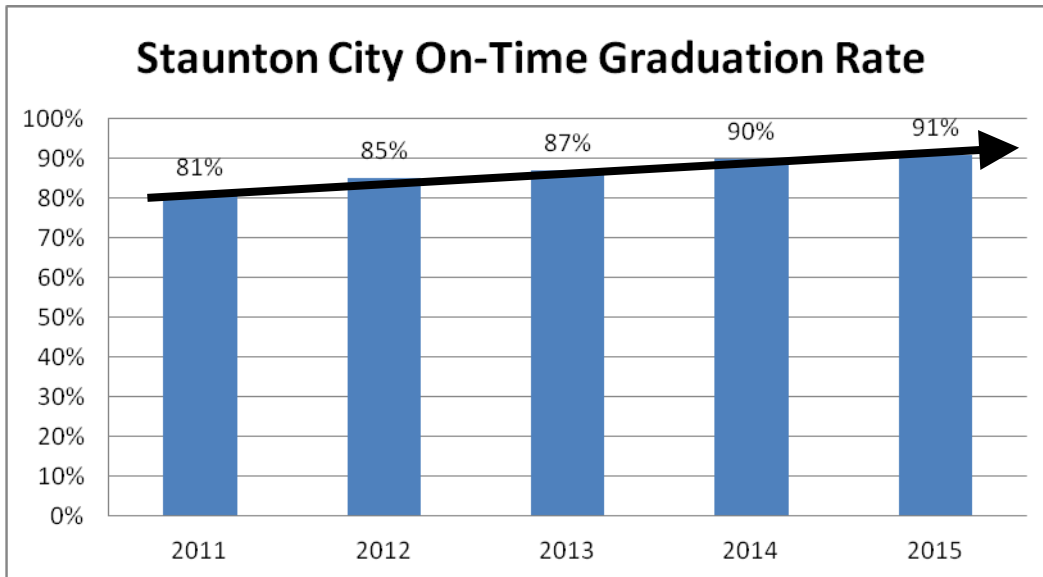
**NEWS**

September 29, 2015 – Staunton City Schools' Graduation Rate Continues to Rise

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**STAUNTON CITY SCHOOLS' GRADUATION RATE CONTINUES TO RISE**

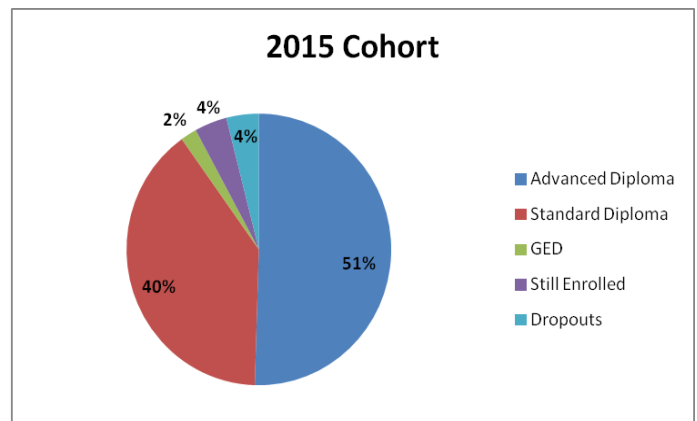
The percentage of students graduating on-time at R. E. Lee High School has shown a continuously positive trend. The 2015 graduating cohort marked the highest percentage of graduates to date at R. E. Lee High School, as 91% of students who entered the ninth grade in the fall of 2011 earned a diploma within four years. This percentage is 10 points higher than the on-time graduation rate just five years ago. The following subgroups had the highest rate of graduation to date, including: all students (91%), white (92%), black (96%), and economically disadvantaged (86%).



Only students earning a diploma are included in the calculations for on-time graduation. Students who earn a GED, remain enrolled in school, or drop out are not included in the calculation. Of the students included in the 2015 cohort:

- 51% earned an Advanced Studies diploma
- 40% earned a Standard diploma
- 2% earned a GED
- 4% remain enrolled
- 4% dropped out

In 2015, Staunton City Schools had a small percentage of students dropping out, significantly lower than the rate of 14 percent in 2011.



"In addition to graduating more students, we are also increasing the percentage of advanced diplomas that are being earned by students, indicating teachers are preparing students at much higher levels," states Director of Assessment and School Improvement, Stephanie Haskins.

Dr. Mark Rowicki, Principal of R. E. Lee High School comments, "At Lee, we remain focused on helping every student graduate and prepare for life after graduation, whether it's attending college or trade school or getting them ready to enter the workforce. Our increasing graduation rate is a team effort, involving our staff, students, parents, and community. We are all working extremely hard and are committed to the success of our students."