

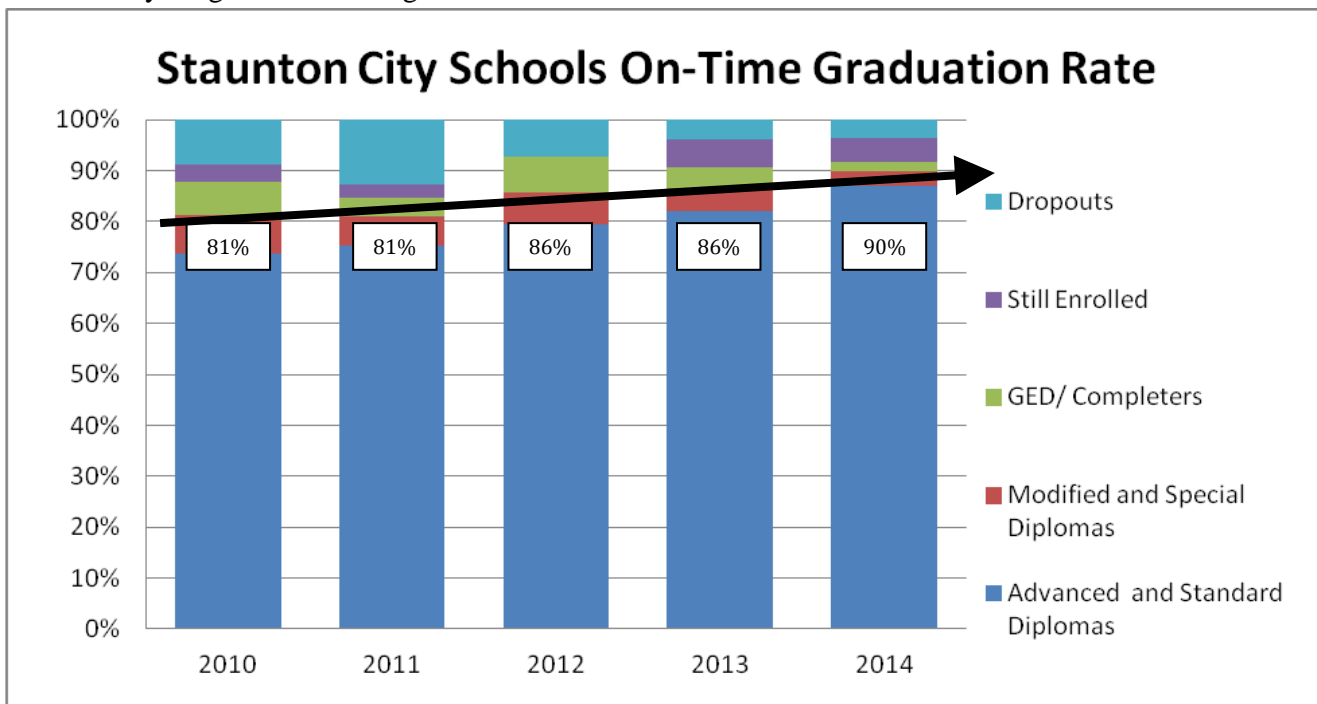
**NEWS**

September 24, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Increases Graduation Rate

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**STAUNTON CITY SCHOOLS INCREASES GRADUATION RATE**

R. E. Lee High School has seen a steady increase in the percentage of graduates over the past five years, as measured by Virginia’s on-time graduation rate.



This rate is used to calculate the percentage of students graduating from high school with a Virginia-recognized diploma, including Advanced Studies diplomas, Standard diplomas, Modified-Standard diplomas, and Special diplomas. The on-time graduation rate expects students to graduate from high school within four years, with allowances for special education and limited English proficient students who need additional time to graduate. The calculation of the on-time graduation rate is different from other graduation calculations, including the federal graduation indicator (which only considers advanced studies or standard diplomas) and the state graduation completion index (which assigns different point values for graduates and program completers).

A cohort consists of students who enter high school in the ninth grade or transfer into high school during grades 9-12. Lee High's 2014 graduating cohort had a total of 90% of students graduating with a diploma within four years. This on-time graduation rate is a 9 percentage points increase over the past five years. Of the diplomas issued, 52% were Advanced Studies diplomas.

R. E. Lee High School had a dropout rate of 4% for the 2014 graduating cohort, a significant decrease from the rate of 9% in 2010. A dropout is defined as a student who does not return for education and does not receive any alternate form of completion, such as a GED.

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."

"High school graduates have a better employment rate and a significantly higher level of income than non-graduates, impacting both the individual and our community. As we have strengthened our community partnerships to support a strong, capable workforce, the accomplishment of our graduates deserves much celebration. I am also pleased with the commitment of our teachers and staff to set high expectations for students and to partner with families to create the opportunity for success. We are proud of the increased number of graduates and will continue our focus on establishing strong early foundations and providing an ongoing challenging education that allows students to achieve their goals," states Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent of Staunton City Schools.