

# Study: Third of youth don't graduate high school

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**

Three out of 10 U.S. public school students do not graduate from high school, and major city school districts only graduate one out of two students, according to a study released Tuesday.

In a report on graduation rates around the country, the EPE Research Center and the America Promise Alliance also showed that the high school graduation rate — finishing 12 grades of school — in big cities falls to as low as just 34.6 percent in Baltimore, Maryland, and barely over 40 percent for the troubled Ohio cities of Columbus and Cleveland.

And it said that Black and native American student's have effectively a one-in-two



**Hats off hooray:** High school students celebrate at their commencement in 2007. Three out of 10 U.S. public school students do not graduate from high school, and major city school districts only graduate one out of two students, according to a study released Tuesday.

chance of getting a high school diploma.

"Our analysis finds that graduating from high school in America's largest cities amounts, essentially, to a coin toss," the study said.

"Only about one-half (52 percent) of students in the principal school systems of the 50 largest cities complete high school with a diploma."

Based on 2003-2004 data, the report said that across the country the graduation average for public school students is 69.9 percent, with the best success rate in suburbs — 74.9 percent — and rural districts — 73.2 percent.

Asian-Americans score the highest graduation rate, at 80 percent, with Whites at 76.2 percent and Hispanics at

57.8 percent.

Women graduate at a much higher rate than men, 73.6 percent to 66.0 percent.

In the country's city schools, the study found that in urban areas generally, just 60.4 percent graduate, and in the principal school districts of the top 50 cities, barely half graduate.

Detroit, Michigan's main school district scored a graduation rate of 24.9 percent.

New York, the country's largest city, has a graduation rate for its main school district of 45.2 percent, and Los Angeles, the second largest, of 45.3 percent.

Only five of the principal school districts topped the national average.

## Cuts

(Continued from Page 2) can't handle both, and drop out of school."

James Booker, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, president of the Black Student Union and lower division representative for the Associated Students at Cal State Dominguez Hills, said he has witnessed the evolution.

"Today's student isn't just a student anymore," he said. "They're students, they're parents, they're workers."

Shaffie Kahn, a chemistry major at Cal State Los Angeles, has the same woes other students have.

"I'm partial financial aid, so when the fees go up I have to rearrange my budget so I can get more money avail-

able to pay for everything else, so that means sometimes taking a quarter or two off, which is the worst part," he said. "Going to school is hard enough, but then having to take the time off [and then going] back to school, makes it more difficult."

The fight against the budget cuts began earlier this month at Cal State

Dominguez Hills. Roughly 400 members of the campus' community gathered to oppose the cuts March 3. Throughout the month and extending into April, all 23 Cal State campuses will hold informational budget forums, notifying students of the budget's negative impact.

The proposed budget cut is broken down in two parts.

The first being \$312.9 million and the other being \$73.2 million, which is required to prevent a 10 percent student fee increase for 2008-09.

In preparation for the cuts, some Cal State campuses have already put hiring freezes into place and have turned thousands of students away who have applied; par-

ticularly first-time, full-time freshmen. Cal State Dominguez Hills President Mildred Garcia has already put the campus' deficit into perspective, adding that roughly \$3.2 million will be figured into its existing \$2.8 million deficit, making a total of \$6 million.

Leiloni De Gruy writes for the Los Angeles WAVE.

April 4, 1968  
6:01 p.m.

One of America's greatest leaders was killed in Memphis, Tennessee.

He stood for justice, peace and righteousness.  
Fought for better education, fair housing and good jobs.  
Now it's our turn.

## Community Town Hall on Education

Tuesday, April 8th  
Matt Kelly Elementary School  
1900 North J Street  
6:00 p.m.

Senator Steven Horsford  
Clark County School District  
Nevada Department of Education



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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