

## High Country Schools Meet Or Beat State Graduation Rate

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The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has released figures on graduation and drop out in the state and all three High Country High Schools were at or above the statewide graduation rate of 68.1 percent. Watauga High School's graduation rate ranked tenth in the state. According to the report on the 2005-2006 school year, Watauga High's cohort graduation rate was 78.5%. The Avery High cohort graduation rate was reported as 70.2 percent, and Ashe County High came in at the state average, 68.1%. The cohort graduation rate is the percentage of students who graduate on time four years after beginning high school in ninth grade. This report marks the first time that a true graduation rate has been available for North Carolina schools. Rates across the state's 115 school districts ranged from 43.7% to a high of 90.2%