

**From 2005 to 2022, nothing's changed:
The public may still have misleading grad rates from its high schools**

Almost 17 years ago, the Black & Latino Institute (B&LPI) wrote a commentary on how misleading graduation rates hurt Indiana's black children. It was published by the *Indianapolis Recorder*, May 15, 2005, p. A11 as,

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/March-25-2005-Misleading-graduation-rates-hurt-Black-children-Indianapolis-Recorder.pdf>.

The B&LPI had collected data from The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University. "Making dropout visible" showed IPS was the only US district where *all of its high schools* were "dropout factories":

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2003-IPS-is-the-only-US-district-where-every-high-school-is-a-dropout-factory-Promoting-Power-Chart.pdf>.

This *Recorder* letter led the *Indy Star* to write and publish its nationally recognized 8-day (May 17-22, 2005) "Left Behind" set of stories on local dropouts. The popular "Left Behind" series expanded and published other stories on local dropout issues through to August 28, 2005: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/May-15-22-2005-Indy-Star-Left-Behind-IPS-Dropout-Series.pdf>.

As of April 18, 2022, almost 17 years later, nothing has changed. This same issue is raised by a Monroe County Coalition for Public Education blog titled, "School Data is Bunk." Here's the link:

https://www.facebook.com/cathy.fuentesrohwer/posts/10225067540329023?comment_id=10225067583370099&reply_comment_id=10225067737213945.

Note blogger Keri Miksza used data from B&LPI research on how local charters like Charles A. Tindley School can finesse policies and data for high grad rates:

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Is-Charles-A.-Tindley-Accelerated-School-a-dropout-factory-A-preliminary-report-and-commentary-on-graduation-rates-and-promoting-power.pdf>.

TABLE I

Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School
 (IDOE school #6208)
 Enrollment numbers per 9th grade 4-year cohort for 2004-2021

	2004 -05	2005 -06	2006 -07	2007 -08	2008 -09	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21
9th	66	59	29	40	46	61	69	62	68	93	135	94	89	91	62	59	63
10th		44	34	26	30	28	52	52	48	54	79	87	80	77	56	56	53
11th			15	22	23	23	22	43	32	41	42	44	64	72	59	50	48
12th				14	19	22	13	18	30	30	32	35	40	61	55	43	43

TABLE II

Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School
 Enrollment numbers, graduation numbers and rates,
 and Promoting Power percentages for 9th grade cohorts

School year	# 9th grade	# 10th grade	# 11th grade	# 12th grade	IDOE # grads*	Class of	IDOE Grad %*	Promoting Power <60%	Weak or Strong	Dropout Factory
04/05	66	44 (-22)	15 (-29)	14 (-1)	12	07-08	63.2%	14/66=21.2%	Weak	Yes
05/06	59	34 (-25)	22 (-12)	19 (-3)	15	08-09	60.0%	19/59=34.5%	Weak	Yes
06/07	29	26 (-3)	23 (-3)	22 (-1)	15	09-10	78.9%	22/29=75.8%	Strong	No
07/08	40	30 (-10)	23 (-7)	13 (-10)	12	10-11	75.0%	13/40=32.5%	Weak	Yes
08/09	46	28 (-18)	22 (-6)	18 (-4)	15	11-12	78.9%	18/46=39.1%	Weak	Yes
09/10	61	52 (-9)	43 (-9)	30 (-13)	27	12-13	90.0%	30/61=49.1%	Weak	Yes
10/11	69	52 (-17)	32 (-20)	30 (-2)	29	13-14	90.6%	30/69=43.4%	Weak	Yes
11/12	62	48 (-14)	41 (-7)	32 (-9)	24	14-15	85.7%	32/62=51.6%	Weak	Yes
12/13	68	54 (-14)	42 (-12)	35 (-7)	32	15-16	88.9%	35/68=51.5%	Weak	Yes
13/14	93	79 (-14)	44 (-35)	40 (-4)	35	16-17	92.1%	40/93=43.0%	Weak	Yes
14/15	135	87 (-48)	64 (-23)	61 (-3)	56	17-18	84.8%	61/135=45.2%	Weak	Yes
15/16	94	80 (-14)	72 (-8)	55 (-17)	53	18-19	81.1%	55/94=58.5%	Weak	Yes
16/17	89	77 (-12)	59 (-18)	43 (-16)	39	19-20	97.5%	43/89=48.3%	Weak	Yes
17/18	91	56 (-35)	50 (-6)	43 (-7)	39	20-21	79.6%	43/91=47.2%	Weak	Yes
18/19	62	56 (-6)	48 (-6)			21-22				
19/20	59	53 (-6)				22-23				
20/21	63					23-24				

This is particularly the case with charters. Historically charters tout school choice while notoriously finding ways to get rid of certain students and/or families who have become "unwanted." Evidently, this seemingly existential action is seen as necessary by certain charter school boards for the survival of the school--consequently rationalizing the finagling.

So, when I and other citizens see the IDOE graduation rates of charter high schools, in particular, we each can't be sure the percent is "accurate." This is like

some citizens are in the back of an Indy Go bus and some con artist is playing 3-card Monte. In this case, it's an IDOE official who's running the game. As the cards are swapped back and forth, the official wants riders to bet on which grad rate card of a charter high school is the correct percentage.

The solution is clear: the IDOE, the Republican dominated legislature, and the charter people must win back our trust , making sure one of the most vital factors in determining any high school's success, it's graduation rate, is not a con job.

John Harris Loflin

Indianapolis

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johnharrisloflin@yahoo.com