

GLEN ELLYN Schoolweek

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West, South See Declines In Graduation Rates

**By James H. Ewert Jr.
Special to School Week**

Hundreds of Glenbard high school students will walk across the stage, turn their tassels and graduate at the end of this month -- but not all their classmates will join them.

Behind the pomp and circumstance of graduation are some troubling trends: Graduation rates at Glen-

bard West and Glenbard South have dropped to the lowest they have been in at least five years.

Both schools, considered top academic performers, are now in the bottom half of DuPage high schools when it comes to the percent of students graduating, state data show.

In addition, black and Hispanic students across Glenbard Township High School District 87 are graduating at significantly lower rates than their

white peers -- a vexing problem nationally as well as locally.

Across the Glenbard district, the problem has grown worse, with the gap between white and black and Hispanic graduation rates wider in 2007 than five years ago, according to Illinois State Board of Education data broken out by race, gender and other factors. In addition, District 87's low-income and

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