

Center for Educational Performance and Information

Understanding Michigan's Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates

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Questions:

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Introduction

Michigan uses an Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate methodology in which the graduation rate includes only "on-time" graduates who earn regular diplomas within four years of entering high school. This meets the guidelines provided by the National Governors Association Graduation Counts Compact as well as the United States Department of Education High School Graduation Rate Non-Regulatory Guidance.

The formula for calculating graduation rates is possible because school districts have tracked the enrollment of individual students since those students first enrolled in ninth grade and report the data to the Center for Educational Performance and Information. Gathering this information at a statewide level lets CEPI help districts track enrollments to reflect "transfers in" and "transfers out" of districts, and students who exit from the public education system, over the course of four years.

These data are submitted through the Michigan Student Data System throughout the school year. For more information on MSDS business rules and methodology, please see the Manuals section of the [MSDS web page](#).

Along with cohort four-year graduation and dropout rates, CEPI also calculates cohort five-year and cohort six-year rates for graduates, dropouts, transfers in and transfers out.

Methodology change:

In 2023, USED instructed Michigan to make changes to ACGR calculations in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act. Prior to 2023, students were only included in building-level rates if they were reported in a building as continuing for at least two count days, and in district-level rates if they were reported by the district as continuing for at least one count day. Students reported as continuing are now included in building- and district-level rates regardless of count days.

Business Rules

CEPI and the Michigan Department of Education use the following business rules and methodology to identify students as members of a graduation cohort and to calculate graduation and dropout rates.

Cohort Year

- Students are placed into a cohort year when they are first identified as ninth graders. Students who transfer into the public education system after ninth grade are placed into the appropriate cohort based on the grade the initial Michigan district places them in.
- Any General Collection or Student Record Maintenance Collection record in MSDS will be used to set the cohort year.

Residency Codes

- The following groups are excluded from the cohort:
 - Under *Nonresident*:
 - Nonpublic school students (code "04")
 - Home-schooled nonresident students (code "07")
 - Under *Resident*:
 - Nonpublic school students (code "08")
 - Home-schooled resident students (code "15")

Ungraded Students

- **Special Education Transition (Grade 14).** Students are assigned to a cohort using a computed grade (age minus 6) if they are first reported between 18 and 21 years old. Schools are held accountable for these students. These students will not be assigned to a cohort if they are over age 21 when they are first reported.
- **Adult Education Participants (Grade 20).** Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, CEPI no longer collects adult education participant data. Students who were reported in a traditional grade, assigned to a cohort, and subsequently reported as adult education participants are counted as "GED completers" if they received their General Educational Development certificate, or "off-track graduated" if they received their high school diploma. Students who were first reported as adult education participants were not assigned to a cohort.

Primary Education Providing Entity

The PEPE is the district and building responsible for graduating a student.

CEPI determines PEPE based on the fall, spring and end-of-year general collections and the SRM Collection in MSDS. Students submitted with nonpublic or homeschool residency codes as noted above are not assigned a PEPE.

If a student is reported as continuing (exit status "19") by only one entity for a given MSDS collection cycle, that district and building becomes the PEPE regardless of full-time equated membership.

If a student is reported by multiple entities in a collection, the entity that reported the greater proportion of FTE is the PEPE.

If the exit status for a student equals 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 40 or 41, this is considered a terminating exit status, and PEPE is assigned to the entity that reported the terminating exit status.

If the exit status for a student equals 06, 20, 21, this is identified as an "Other Completer" exit status, and PEPE is assigned to the entity that reported this status.

If the exit status for a student equals any exit code other than those referenced above, PEPE remains with the last entity that reported the student as continuing.

When both a Unique Education Provider and a school report a student, the school will be the PEPE for the student. However, if only a UEP (e.g., Career and Technical Education entities and Michigan Math/Science Center buildings) reports a student, that UEP will be the PEPE for the student.

If a PEPE district and building cannot be determined, the record goes into "resolution" in MSDS, and CEPI staff will determine PEPE. Authorized users will use the previously accountable district/building's code until CEPI assigns the new PEPE.

Schools/Facilities That Will Not Receive Graduation/Dropout Rates

- An entity that does not have 12th grade students for a given cohort year (such as a 9th, 9th-10th or 9th-11th-grade building) and has not reported any graduates will not have a graduation rate. However, if graduates are reported in this entity, the entity will receive a graduation and dropout rate.
- An entity identified as an intermediate school district school that has not reported any graduates may have a dropout rate but will not have a graduation rate. However, if graduates are reported by an ISD, the ISD will have a graduation rate.

Early/Middle College Students

- Students submitted in MSDS as participating in an EMC program (reported with early/middle college participation code "3500") have their cohort year increased by one. If a student was previously reported with the above

program participation code, but not reported with this code in the most recent collection, the student's cohort year will be decreased by one.

- Students submitted in MSDS as participating in an EMC program have five years to complete high school with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advanced certificate to be considered "On-Track Graduated." EMC students who complete only a high school diploma in five years will be considered "Off-Track Graduated."

High School Equivalency Data

- GED/HSE exam results from the state workforce agency (Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity) are incorporated into graduation and dropout rate processing.
- Students with a "Dropout" or "Missing Expected Record" cohort status will update to "GED Completer" when a HSE certificate from LEO's system is matched to the student.

Subgroup Determination

Subgroup assignment is based on the status of the student, not whether the PEPE provided specific services. Exiting a student from a program during the school year will not remove them from the subgroup for that school year. This methodology aligns with program allocations that are based on total school year eligibility.

- **Race/Ethnicity and Gender subgroups:** A student will be identified in these subgroups based on the last certified submission of the PEPE.
- **English Learner (formerly LEP; Limited English Proficient) and Special Education subgroups:** A student will be identified in these subgroups if they were last reported as eligible for that subgroup in any certified collection in MSDS by any reporting entity and not subsequently reported as exited from that subgroup.
- **Economically Disadvantaged subgroup:** A student will be identified in this subgroup if they are 1) reported as eligible for supplemental nutrition in any certified collection in the MSDS in the selected school year by any reporting entity, 2) directly certified, 3) migrant or 4) reported as homeless.
- **Migrant subgroup:** A student will be identified in this subgroup if they are identified as migrant eligible for the selected school year in the MIS2000 Application.
- **Homeless subgroup:** A student will be identified if they are reported as eligible for this subgroup in any certified collection in MSDS in the selected school year by any reporting entity.

- **Foster Care subgroup:** If the student was in foster care at any point during the school year, they will be reported in the foster care subgroup.
 - “Foster care” means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents and for whom the agency under title IV–E of the Social Security Act has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, childcare institutions and pre-adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed; whether payments are made by the State, tribal, or local agency for the care of the child; whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption; or whether there is Federal matching of any payments that are made.
- **Military-Connected Students:** If a student is reported in MSDS with program participation code 9140 in any collection during the school year, they are a military-connected student.

Calculating Building/District/State Rates

Each student is assigned to a cohort the first time they are reported as a ninth grader or, if a transfer student, immediately upon being reported as enrolled in a high school grade. Every student not subject to an exception is included in graduation and dropout rates.

- Exceptions:
 - Buildings that solely serve neglected and/or delinquent children and youth as defined by Title I, Part D will receive a building rate, but these students will not be included in the district's rate. (The list of buildings, updated annually, can be found in Appendix A.)
 - Students attending the Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind will be counted in the state rates only.
 - Students remain in the cohort they are assigned throughout their educational career unless they are submitted in MSDS as participating in an early/middle college program. See the sections on Cohort Year and EMC Students for more information.

Buildings That Move to a New Parent District

In some situations, a building will change ownership, becoming part of a different parent district, but retaining the same five-digit school code. In this event, the following will occur:

- Students classified as dropouts (see page 11) will be reflected in the previous parent district's graduation and dropout rates.

- All other students will be reflected in graduation and dropout rates for the new parent district (or other districts).

Example: Fruit Tree Early College had a parent district of Cherry Tree School District in the 2021-22 school year but changed its parent district to Apple Tree School District beginning in the 2022-23 school year and retained its five-digit school code.

- Students in this building who were last reported under Cherry Tree School District (but not reported by any district in the 2022-23 school year) will be reflected in Cherry Tree's 2023 five-year graduation and dropout rate.
- All other students who were reported in the 2022-23 school year under Apple Tree School District (or other districts) will be reflected in the graduation and dropout rates for the appropriate district.

Data Validation and Appeals Process

CEPI provides an annual appeals window from mid-July through mid-September. During this window, district staff review and request graduation and dropout rate corrections on an individual student level via MSDS. Corrections include exit status changes for students in the current school year, requests for cohort year changes, and requests to link student Unique Identification Codes.

Only an ISD auditor can submit exit status changes for students last reported prior to the current school year via audit findings in the GAD Application. ISD auditors complete an exit status audit between October and November, during which they record exit status changes as audit findings.

For the Race/Ethnicity and Gender subgroups, a student will be identified in these subgroups by the last certified submission of the PEPE. However, the following data fields cannot be changed:

- Economically Disadvantaged status
- Migrant status
- English Learner status
- Special Education status
- Homeless status
- Foster care status
- Military-connected status
- Early/middle college status

Appealable rates are made available in the Graduation and Dropout Application to districts in August based on data submitted in the EOY General Collection and all prior applicable collections. Auditable rates are made available in October based on updates submitted during the appeals window.

Only the ISD auditor can submit exit status changes for any student last reported prior to the selected school year as an audit finding in the GAD Application. ISD

auditors complete an exit status audit between October and November in which they record any audit findings as an exit status change, which modifies the cohort status accordingly. Note: High School Equivalency data are not subject to ISD audit.

Graduation Cohort Determination

Determining First-time 9th Graders

First-time 9th graders are students who first enrolled in ninth grade during a given school year and were assigned to a cohort year four years from the year they are enrolled. As the State of Michigan has no data on students before their arrivals, students who transfer into the state and are reported as 9th graders are deemed first-time 9th graders, regardless of their statuses in their previous, out-of-state residences. Students who transfer into the state as 10th through 12th graders are placed in the appropriate cohort as if they are on track for completion in four years.

For example: First-time 9th graders who first enrolled in 9th grade during the 2021-22 school year were assigned to the 2025 cohort.

Calculating the Cohort Status

To calculate cohort status, CEPI staff consider grade and exit status. A chart of exit status code definitions follows.

Table 1

Exit Status Code	Exit Status Definition	Cohort Status Category
01	Graduated from general education with a regular high school diploma	Graduated
02	Graduated from general education with a regular high school diploma and applied to a degree-granting college or university	Graduated
03	Graduated from an alternative program with a regular high school diploma	Graduated
04	Graduated from general education with a regular high school diploma and applied to a non-degree granting institution	Graduated
05	Completed general education with an equivalency certificate (GED)	GED Completer
06	Completed general education with other certificate	Other Completer
07	Dropped out of school	Dropout

Exit Status Code	Exit Status Definition	Cohort Status Category
08	Enrolled in another public school district in Michigan	If not located, Dropout; if located, Continuing in new district
09	Moved out of state	Exempt
10	Expelled from the school district (no further services)	Dropout
11	Enlisted in military or Job Corps prior to graduation	Dropout
12	Deceased	Exempt
13	Incarcerated	Dropout
14	Enrolled in home school	Exempt
15	Enrolled in nonpublic school	Exempt
16	Unknown	Dropout
17	Placed in a recovery or rehabilitative program	Dropout
18	Left Adult Education	Dropout
19	Expected to continue in the same school district	On-track Continuing or Off-track Continuing, depending on Expected Graduation Year
20	Received Special Education certificate of completion and exited the K-12 system	Other Completer
21	Special Education - Reached maximum age and exited the K-12 system	Other Completer
40	Graduated from a middle college with both a high school diploma and an associate degree or other advanced certificate	Graduated
41	Graduated from a middle college with only a high school diploma	Graduated
42	Graduated from another district	If not located, Dropout; if located, Graduate in new district

CEPI staff considers eight categories of students when determining cohort status:

1. On-Track Graduated
 - Completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less, or

- Early/Middle College participant, completed high school with a regular diploma AND an associate degree, other advanced certificate or up to 60 transferable college credits in five years or less.
 - The student must be reported with a graduate exit date on or prior to Aug. 31 of their cohort year to be considered an on-track graduate.
2. Other Completer - received special education certificate of completion and exited the kindergarten through 12th-grade system, completed general education with another certificate or reached maximum special education age and exited the K-12 system.
 3. GED Completer - completed general education with an equivalency certificate (GED).
 4. Off-Track Graduated:
 - Completed high school with a regular diploma in more than four years, or
 - Early/Middle College participant, completed in five years with only a high school diploma, or
 - Early/Middle College participant, completed high school with a regular diploma AND an associate degree, other advanced certificate or up to 60 transferable college credits in more than five years.
 5. Off-Track (+5 year) Graduated:
 - Completed high school with a regular diploma in more than five years, or
 - Early/Middle College participant, completed in more than five years with only a high school diploma, or
 - Early/Middle College participant, completed high school with a regular diploma AND an associate degree, other advanced certificate or up to 60 transferable college credits in more than six years.
 6. Off-Track Continuing - did not complete high school in four years and is still continuing in school.
 7. Dropout - left high school permanently at any time during the cohort period, or whereabouts are unknown.
 8. Exempt - transferred out of the public school system (out of state, to nonpublic school or to home-school) or is deceased.

Table 2

Status	Corresponding Exit Code(s)
On-Track Graduated, Off-Track Graduated and Off-Track (+5 year) Graduated	01, 02, 03, 04, 40 or 41
Other Completer	06, 20 or 21
GED Completer	05
Off-Track Continuing	19
Dropout (Reported & MER)	07, 08*, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19* or 42*
Exempt (transfer out)	09, 12, 14 or 15

**Exit status codes 08, 19 or 42 do not automatically count as a dropout. These codes only result in a dropout status if the student record is not reported by the new district (08), by the same district (19) or by the graduating district (42) in the subsequent collection. This indicates the student has a missing expected record (MER) and the whereabouts of the student are unknown.*

The Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate

How is the cohort four-year graduation rate determined?

CEPI calculates the cohort four-year graduation rate by tracking individual students who were reported for the first time in ninth grade in the school year four years prior to the selected school year. These students are assigned to the selected year's cohort. Using the cohort method allows the state to track student movement more accurately over time. It accounts for students who leave school during one year and return in another, and it can account for students who are retained in a grade, but stay in school and graduate later than their classmates.

For example: CEPI calculates the 2025 cohort four-year graduation rate by tracking individual students who were reported for the first time in 9th grade in the 2021-22 school year. These students are assigned to the 2025 cohort. The total number of students who were identified as first-time 9th graders in fall 2021 formed the initial 2025 cohort.

Students who transferred into the state, a district or a building at any time during the four-year period were added to the initial group. For students who moved within the public schools, CEPI updated student records to reflect the correct district and building location. These students were considered "transfers out" of the district/building they left and "transfers in" to the district/building they entered. Students who exited the public school system entirely (out of state, to nonpublic school or to home school) at any time during the four-year period are considered "exempt" and are removed from the cohort. Deceased students are also exempt.

To calculate the cohort four-year graduation rate, CEPI places all students into one of five categories:

1. On-Track Graduated - completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less; or if enrolled in an early/middle college, completed high school with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advanced certificate in five years or less.
2. GED Completer - earned a GED certificate.
3. Other Completer - received a special education certificate of completion, earned another certificate, or reached special education maximum age.
4. Off-Track Continuing - did not complete high school in four years and is still continuing in school.
5. Dropout - left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whereabouts are unknown.*

**Exit status codes 08 (transfer), 19 (continuing) or 42 (graduated from another district) do not automatically count as a dropout. These codes only result in a*

dropout status if the student record is not reported by the new district (08), by the same district (19) or by the graduating district (42) in the subsequent collection. This indicates the student has a missing expected record (MER) and the whereabouts of the student are unknown.

Calculating the cohort four-year graduation rate

CEPI counts a student toward the graduation rate of the final building and/or district the student attended during the four-year period. The number of "On-Track Graduated" students is used as the numerator and divided by the total count of all cohort status categories. The cohort total takes into account students who transferred in the final building and/or district and students who transferred out in another public entity's rates, if the students have been located.

The following formula is used to calculate the cohort four-year graduation rate:

$$\frac{\text{On-Track Graduated}}{\text{Selected Year Cohort Total}}$$

How is the cohort four-year dropout rate determined?

There is no national standard for calculating cohort four-year dropout rates. Michigan has chosen to maintain consistency by using the cohort methodology recommended by NGA to calculate this rate as well.

CEPI calculates the cohort four-year dropout rate by tracking individual students who were reported for the first time in ninth grade in the school year four years prior to the selected school year (assigned to the selected year's cohort) and left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period prior to receiving a regular diploma, GED or other completion certificate.

For example: CEPI calculates the 2025 cohort four-year dropout rate by tracking individual students who were reported for the first time in 9th grade in the 2021-22 school year (assigned to the 2025 cohort) and left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period prior to receiving a regular diploma, GED, or other completion certificate.

A dropout rate is not equivalent to subtracting the graduation rate from 100 percent, because that method would count students who are "Other Completers", "GED Completers" or "Off-Track Continuing" as dropouts. Other Completers are students who received a special education certificate of completion, earned another certificate, or reached special education maximum age. GED Completers are students who earned a GED. Students with an Off-Track Continuing cohort status are those who did not complete high school in four years and are still continuing in school.

To calculate the cohort four-year dropout rate for a selected year, CEPI places all students into the same five categories used to determine graduation rates: On-

Track Graduated, Other Completer, GED Completer, Off-Track Continuing and Dropout.

Calculating the cohort four-year dropout rate

CEPI counts "Dropouts" as the numerator and divides by the total count of all status categories. The total of the status categories is the selected year's Cohort Total.

The following formula is used to calculate the cohort four-year dropout rate:

$$\frac{\text{Dropouts}}{\text{Selected Year Cohort Total}}$$

Some schools in Michigan offer 9th, 9th-10th, and 9th-11th grade campuses from which students do not graduate. Additionally, some schools offer grades 9-12 but do not have 12th grade students for a given cohort year. As these schools do not have a cohort for a complete four years, graduation and dropout rates are not calculated for these schools unless a school reports at least one graduate.

To help district authorized users calculate whether a student would be included in the building and/or district's rate, relative to dropout rates, here are some examples where a student attended for at least two count dates:

- If **Student A** dropped out while attending a ninth-grade building, the student would only be included in the district's dropout rate, as the student did not attend any 10th-12th-grade buildings.
- If **Student B** attended a ninth-grade building and continued on to a 10th-12th-grade building, but eventually dropped out, the student would be included in the 10th-12th-grade building's dropout rates.
- If **Student C** attended a ninth-grade building and continued on to a 10th-12th-grade building where the authorized user reported this student as off-track (graduated or continuing) or other completer, the student would not be included in any building's dropout rate, as this student did not drop out.
- If **Student D** transferred into the district to a 10th-12th-grade building and dropped out, the student would be included in the 10th-12th-grade building's dropout rate, as the student did not attend any ninth-grade buildings.
- If **Student E** attended a ninth-grade building and continued on to a 10th-12th-grade building, transferred to another district and then dropped out, this student would only be included in the new district's dropout rate.

Table 3: Dropout Rate Accountable Entity for Non-Graduating Buildings

	Building A	Cohort Status in Building A	Building B	Cohort Status in Building B	Included in Rate
Student A	Ninth grade	Dropout	N/A	N/A	District
Student B	Ninth grade	On-track or Off-track Continuing	10th-12th grade	Dropout	Building B
Student C	Ninth grade	On-track or Off-track Continuing	10th-12th grade	Off-track (graduated or continuing) or Other Completer	Building B
Student D	N/A	N/A	10th-12th grade	Dropout	Building B
Student E	Ninth grade	On-track or Off-track Continuing	10th-12th grade in another district	Dropout	Building B (in the other district)

Understanding the Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

The cohort four-year graduation rate report contains buildings/districts where students are educated in any high school grades (9th-12th), as well as any students eligible to graduate, such as students in education setting "14." There is a calculation rule that may result in building rates not summing to district rates and district rates not summing to state rates.

Reading the Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

The graduation and dropout rate report includes data for the state, every district and every building from which students graduate. This report is divided into the following twelve columns:

Table 4

Column Name	Column Definitions
District/Building Name (Code)	The first line of the report shows the State of Michigan rates, followed by an alphabetical listing of local education agencies, then public school academies and then intermediate school districts. District-level data are identified in shaded rows. Buildings in a district appear below the district name in non-shaded rows that are slightly indented.
First Time 9th Grade	Total number of students who were identified as first-time ninth graders in the fall 4 years prior to the selected school year, which was the group of students who initially formulated the selected year cohort.
(+) Transfers In	Total number of students who transferred into the state, district or building at any time during the four-year period and remained there.
(-) Transfers Out & Exempt	Total number of transfers out and exempt students. Transfers out are students who transferred out of the district or building and were submitted by a new district. Exempt students are those who transferred out of the public school system at any time during the four-year period and did not return (exited to out-of-state, to nonpublic school or to home-school). Deceased students are also exempt.
Cohort	Total number of students in the selected year cohort for the state, for each district and for each building after adjustments were made for transfers in, transfers out and exempt students.

Understanding Michigan's Cohort Grad-Drop Rates

Column Name	Column Definitions
On-Track Graduated	Total number of students in the selected year cohort who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less; or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advanced certificate in five years or less.
Dropout (Reported & MER)	Total number of students who left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER).
Off-Track (Continuing & Graduated)	Total number of students who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not complete high school in four years and are still continuing in school; or Completed a participating early/middle college program in five years with only a high school diploma, or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree, other advanced certificate, or up to 60 transferable college credits in more than five years.
Other Completer (GED, etc.)	Total number of students who earned a GED, other certificate or reached special education maximum age.
Graduation Rate	The percentage, calculated as On-Track Graduated divided by the selected year Cohort, of the total number of students in the selected year cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less.
Dropout Rate	This is the percentage, calculated as Dropouts divided by the selected year Cohort Total, of the total number of students in the selected year cohort who left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown.

A cell containing "< 10" indicates there were zero or fewer than 10 total students in the cohort or in a cohort status at the building for two count days or the district for one count day.

The Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates

Cohort five-year graduation and dropout rates are calculated for students in the previous year cohort. For example, for 2025 rates, the Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates are calculated for students in the 2024 cohort. The five-year graduation rate is calculated in the same manner as the four-year rate, including students who graduated in the fifth year (off-track graduated) in the numerator. "On-Track Graduated" and "Off-Track Graduated" are counted as the numerator and divided by the total count of all status categories (On-Track Graduated, Off-Track Graduated, Off-Track Continuing, GED Completer, Other Completer and Dropout). Transfers in and out during that fifth year are accounted for as well. The total of the status categories is the previous year Cohort Total.

The following formula is used to calculate the cohort five-year graduation rate:

$$\frac{\text{On-Track Graduated} + \text{Off-Track Graduated}}{\text{previous year Cohort Total}}$$

The five-year dropout rate is calculated in the same manner as the four-year rate, including those students who dropped out of high school in their fifth year. Transfers in and out during that fifth year are accounted for as well.

The following formula is used to calculate the cohort five-year dropout rate:

$$\frac{\text{Dropouts}}{\text{previous year Cohort Total}}$$

A building's or district's cohort five-year graduation and dropout rates could be greater than, less than or equal to the cohort four-year rates. There are two reasons for this discrepancy: 1) numerator changes and 2) denominator changes.

According to the federal regulations released in October 2008, states cannot freeze cohorts. Once a cohort has graduated, the cohort total (the denominator used in the graduation and dropout rates) cannot be "locked" at that total. The cohort total must remain "open" to allow accountability to be placed with the correct entity for students who attend high school beyond the fourth year. Below is a table demonstrating graduation and dropout rate change examples.

Table 5: Graduation and Dropout Rate Change Examples

	4-Year Rate	5-Year Rate	Rate Change	Possible Explanation
Grad Rate	97%	97%	Remains the same	No off-track continuing students graduated in the fifth year (numerator does not change) and no off-track continuing students transferred in or out (denominator does not change).
	97%	99%	Increases	Off-track continuing students graduated in the fifth year.
	97%	95%	Decreases	Off-track students transferred into the district/building in the fifth year and are still continuing (increases the denominator).
Dropout Rate	5%	5%	Remains the same	No off-track continuing students dropped out in the fifth year (numerator does not change) and no off-track continuing students transferred in or out (denominator does not change).
	5%	7%	Increases	Off-track continuing students dropped out in the fifth year.
	5%	3%	Decreases	Off-track students transferred into the district/building in the fifth year and did not drop out (increases the denominator) or former dropouts completing high school (decreases the numerator).

Reading the Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

The cohort five-year graduation and dropout rate report includes data for the state, every district and every building from which students graduate. The report is divided into the following eleven columns:

Table 6

Column Name	Column Definitions
District/Building Name (Code)	The first line of the report shows the State of Michigan rates, followed by an alphabetical listing of LEAs, then PSAs and then ISDs. The district-level data are identified in shaded rows. Buildings in a district appear below the district name in non-shaded rows that are slightly indented.

Column Name	Column Definitions
First Time 9th Grade	Total number of students who were identified as first-time ninth graders in fall five years prior to their cohort year, which was the group of students who initially formulated the previous year cohort. For example, for 2025 rates, the total number of students who were identified as first-time 9th graders in fall 2020, which was the group of students who initially formulated the 2024 cohort.
(+) Transfers In	Total number of students who transferred into the state, district or building at any time during the five-year period and remained there.
(-) Transfers Out & Exempt	Total number of transfers out and exempt students. Transfers out are students who transferred out of the district or building and were submitted by a new district. Exempt are those who transferred out of the public school system at any time during the four-year period and did not return (exited to out of state, to nonpublic school or to home-school). Deceased students are also exempt.
Cohort	Total number of students in the previous year cohort for the state, for each district and for each building after adjustments were made for transfers in, transfers out and exempt students.
On-Track + Off-Track Graduated	<p>On-Track Graduated: Total number of students in the previous year cohort who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less; or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advanced certificate in five years or less. <p>Off-Track Graduated: Total number of students in the previous year cohort who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed high school with a regular diploma in more than four years; or Completed a participating early/middle college program in five years with only a high school diploma or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advance certificate in more than five years.

Understanding Michigan's Cohort Grad-Drop Rates

Column Name	Column Definitions
Dropout (Reported & MER)	Total number of students who left high school permanently at any time during the five-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER).
Off-Track Continuing	Total number of students who did not complete high school in five years and are still continuing in school.
Other Completer (GED, etc.)	Total number of students who earned a GED, other certificate, or reached special education maximum age.
Graduation Rate	The percentage, calculated as On-Track Graduated + Off-Track Graduated divided by the previous year Cohort, of the total number of students in the 2024 cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in five years or less.
Dropout Rate	This is the percentage, calculated as Dropouts divided by the previous year Cohort Total, of the total number of students in the previous year cohort who left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown.

The Cohort Six-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates

Cohort six-year graduation and dropout rates are calculated for students in the two-years-previous cohort. For example, for 2025 rates, the Six-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates are calculated for students in the 2023 cohort. The six-year graduation rate is calculated in the same manner as the five-year rate, including students who graduated in the sixth year (Off-Track Graduated) in the numerator. "On-Track Graduated," "Off-Track Graduated" and "Off-Track 5+ Graduated" are counted as the numerator and divided by the total count of all status categories (On-Track Graduated, Off-Track Graduated, Off-Track Continuing, Off-Track 5+ Continuing, GED Completer, Other Completer and Dropout). Transfers in and out during that sixth year are accounted for as well. The total of the status categories is the two-years-previous Cohort Total.

The following formula is used to calculate the cohort six-year graduation rate:

$$\frac{\text{On-Track Graduated} + \text{Off-Track Graduated} + \text{Off-Track 5+ Graduated}}{\text{Two-years-previous Cohort Total}}$$

The six-year dropout rate is calculated in the same manner as the five-year rate, including those students who dropped out of high school in their sixth year. Transfers in and out during that sixth year are accounted for as well.

The following formula is used to calculate the cohort six-year dropout rate:

$$\frac{\text{Dropouts}}{\text{Two-years-previous Cohort Total}}$$

A building or district's cohort six-year graduation and dropout rates could be greater than, less than or equal to the cohort four-year rates. There are two reasons for this discrepancy: 1) numerator changes and 2) denominator changes.

Table 7: Graduation and Dropout Rate Change Examples

	5-Year Rate	6-Year Rate	Rate Change	Possible Explanation
Graduation Rate	97%	97%	Remains the same	No off-track continuing students graduated in the sixth year (numerator does not change) and no off-track continuing students transferred in or out (denominator does not change).
	97%	99%	Increases	Off-track continuing students graduated in the sixth year.
	97%	95%	Decreases	Off-track students transferred into the district/building and are still continuing (increases the denominator).

	5-Year Rate	6-Year Rate	Rate Change	Possible Explanation
Dropout Rate	5%	5%	Remains the same	No off-track continuing students dropped out in the sixth year (numerator does not change) and no off-track continuing students transferred in or out (denominator does not change).
	5%	7%	Increases	Off-track continuing students dropped out in the sixth year.
	5%	3%	Decreases	Off-track students transferred into the district/building or former dropouts completing high school (decreases the numerator).

Reading the Cohort Six-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

The cohort six-year graduation rate report includes data for the state, every district and every building from which students graduate. The report is divided into the following eleven columns:

Table 8

Column Name	Column Definitions
District/Building Name (Code)	The first line of the report shows the State of Michigan rates, followed by an alphabetical listing of LEAs, then PSAs and then ISDs. The district-level data are identified in shaded rows. Buildings in a district appear below the district name in non-shaded rows that are slightly indented.
First Time 9th Grade	Total number of students who were identified as first-time ninth graders in fall six years prior to their cohort year. For example, for 2025 rates, the total number of students who were identified as first-time 9th graders in Fall 2019 initially formed the 2023 cohort.
(+) Transfers In	Total number of students who transferred into the state, district or building at any time during the six-year period and remained there.
(-) Transfers Out & Exempt	Total number of transfers out and exempt students. Transfers out are students who transferred out of the district or building and were submitted by a new district. Exempt are those who transferred out of the public

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Column Name	Column Definitions
	school system at any time during the four-year period and did not return (exited to out of state, to nonpublic school or to home-school) Deceased students are also exempt.
Cohort	Total number of students in the two-years-previous cohort for the state, for each district and for each building after adjustments were made for transfers in, transfers out and exempt students.
On-Track + Off-Track Graduated + Off-Track +5 Graduated	<p>On-Track Graduated: Total number of students in the two-years-previous cohort who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less; or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advanced certificate in five years or less. <p>Off-Track Graduated: Total number of students in the two-years-previous cohort who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed high school with a regular diploma in more than four years; or Completed a participating early/middle college program in five years with only a high school diploma or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree or other advance certificate in six years. <p>Off-Track + 5 Graduated: Total number of students in the two-years-previous cohort who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed high school with a regular diploma in more than five years; or Completed a participating early/middle college program in more than five years with only a high school diploma or Completed a participating early/middle college program with a regular diploma AND an associate degree, other advanced certificate or up to 60 transferable college credits in more than six years.
Dropout (Reported & MER)	Total number of students who left high school permanently at any time during the six-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER).
Off-Track Continuing	Total number of students who did not complete high school in six years and are still continuing in school.

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Column Name	Column Definitions
Other Completer (GED, etc.)	Total number of students who earned a GED, other certificate, or reached special education maximum age.
Graduation Rate	The percentage, calculated as On-Track Graduated + Off-Track Graduated + Off-Track +5 Graduated divided by the two-years-previous Cohort, of the total number of students in the two-years-previous Cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in six years or less.
Dropout Rate	This is the percentage, calculated as Dropouts divided by the two-years-previous Cohort Total, of the total number of students in the two-years-previous cohort who left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown.

Appendix A: Title I Part D Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk Program

The following list contains buildings identified by MDE's Office of Educational Supports as solely serving neglected, or delinquent children and youth as defined by Title I, Part D. CEPI obtains this list from OES annually.

District Code	Fiscal Agent	School Code	School Name
33020	Lansing Public School District	00579	Ingham County Youth Center
38170	Jackson Public Schools	01160	Jackson County Jail
41922	Lighthouse Academy	01536	Lighthouse Academy - Waalkes
13110	Marshall Public Schools	02218	Michigan Youth Challenge Academy
41922	Lighthouse Academy	02462	Lighthouse Academy - The Port
63110	Oxford Community Schools	02466	Oxford Crossroads Day School
23060	Grand Ledge Public Schools	02552	Eaton County Youth Facility
25040	Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools	02564	Genesee County Jail
25040	Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools	02565	Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center
11000	Berrien RESA	02577	Berrien County Juvenile Center
63300	Waterford School District	02803	Children's Village School
41922	Lighthouse Academy	03050	Lighthouse Academy - Eagle Village
41922	Lighthouse Academy	03055	Lighthouse Academy - The Pier
82752	Capstone Academy Charter School (SDA)	03244	Capstone-Wayne Co. Juvenile Detention Fac.
81010	Ann Arbor Public Schools	03294	Correctional Services
39010	Kalamazoo Public Schools	03516	Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home Youth Center School
39010	Kalamazoo Public Schools	03519	Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office GED Program
39010	Kalamazoo Public Schools	03523	Let's Talk About It Girls Home

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District Code	Fiscal Agent	School Code	School Name
39010	Kalamazoo Public Schools	03528	Let's Talk About It Home for Young Men
41922	Lighthouse Academy	04007	Lighthouse Academy - Ottawa Juvenile Detention Center
25010	Flint, School District of the City of	04086	Whaley Children Centers
82991	Covenant Schools Detroit	04228	Covenant School - Spectrum
82752	Capstone Academy Charter School (SDA)	04377	Capstone Academy Charter School-Riverbend
81000	Washtenaw ISD	04391	Washtenaw County Youth Center - Educational Programs
79150	Vassar Public Schools	04392	Vassar House
50140	L'Anse Creuse Public Schools	05970	Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center School
38000	Jackson ISD	06435	Youth Home- Jackson ISD
09000	Bay-Arenac ISD	07276	Detention Center
49010	St. Ignace Area Schools	07718	St. Ignace Juvenile Detention Facility
33000	Ingham ISD	07742	Malcolm Williams School
41010	Grand Rapids Public Schools	07784	Bethany Based School
79150	Vassar Public Schools	07857	Clarence Fischer Center
58000	Monroe ISD	08224	Monroe County Youth Center
54000	Mecosta-Osceola ISD	09040	Pineview Homes
46000	Lenawee ISD	09527	Maurice Spear Campus
13000	Calhoun Intermediate School District	09757	Calhoun County Youth Center
82996	Clara B. Ford Academy (SDA)	09787	Clara B. Ford Academy (SDA)
56010	Midland Public Schools	09918	Juvenile Justice Center
03902	Outlook Academy	09987	Outlook Academy - Youth Home Campus