



Center for Educational Performance and Information

Details of Michigan's 2005-2006 Graduation and Dropout Methodology

The National Governors Association's (NGA) recommended methodology was identified as the national standard by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and the Department of Management and Budget (DMB). As a result, Michigan is transitioning from using aggregated data for determining the graduation and dropout rates to determining the rates based upon a four-year student cohort, as the NGA methodology prescribes. More information on the NGA methodology is available via the NGA Web site: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0608GRADPROGRESS.PDF>.

Until the transition is completed, the methodology for determining the 2005-2006 graduation and dropout rates will be the same as that used for determining the 2004-2005 rates. The student's primary Unique Identification Code (UIC) is examined from fall 2005 to, and including, fall 2006, in order to determine his or her disposition for the school year. As the students matriculate, they are placed into one of the following categories (Appendix A): diploma recipient, general education development (GED) recipient, other high school completer, continuing, transfer-in, transfer-out, retained-in-grade, located student, or unknown (dropout).

The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) will calculate the school year 2005-2006 school/facility and district rates utilizing each district's official Single Record Student Database (SRSD) submissions via the Web-based Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application (GAD). The formula takes into account student attrition by multiplying all the class retention rates together to derive an estimated four-year graduation rate. The dropout rate is derived by subtracting the school's/facility's total retention rate from 100 percent (Appendix B). The GAD will be released in late spring for districts and schools/facilities to review their 2005-2006 rates and make minimal adjustments based on their most recent knowledge of the students' movements.

This document is designed to provide details about the calculations, definitions (Appendix C) and rules pertaining to how the 2005-2006 graduation and dropout rates were determined. A working knowledge of the SRSD data collection and submission processes is necessary to fully understand this information. A copy of the SRSD Data Field Descriptions for fall 2006 can be obtained from: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/FldDscrp0506_158438_7.pdf.

Fall 2005 Enrollment (September 28, 2005)

The fall 2005 enrollment for any given graduating class for any given school/facility is all the student records that meet all the following criteria:

- district exit code equal to 19 (Field 23: District Exit Status)
- in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 (Field 19: Grade or Setting)
- if a special education student, less than 22 years old as of December 1, 2005 (Field 9: Date of Birth)
- combined general education and special education full time equated (FTE) is greater than or equal to 0.5 (Field 18: FTE, Field 40: FTE in Section 52, and Field 41: FTE in Section 53)
- a public school student per his/her residency code (Field 30: Residency)
- not an adult participant (Field 29: Program Eligibility/Participation).

Transfer-In

Students are counted as "transfer-in," if they meet any of the following scenarios:

1. they are new enrollees to the public school system; or
2. they transferred from another district between submissions (e.g. between district movement); or
3. they transferred from another school/facility within the district between submissions (e.g. within district movement); or

4. they transferred from another grade/educational setting within the school/facility between submissions (e.g. within school/facility movement). This would account for mid-year promotions and demotion; however, this does not include normal matriculation.

In order for a student to be considered a "transfer-in" and added to a graduating class, the student has to be in the ninth, 10th, 11th or 12th grade; has to have a combined FTE greater than or equal to 0.5; has to be a public school student; and cannot be an adult education participant (reference fall 2005 criteria). Student records submitted during the end-of-year 2006 submission are flagged for inclusion; however, the students are not included until the FTE value is checked during the fall 2006 submission.

Students counted as transfer-in for items 2, 3, and 4 will also be counted as transfers-out of the district that they departed. For example, a student was submitted in Detroit's SRSD fall submission and then during the spring submission, the student's record was submitted by Lansing. The student would be a transfer-in for Lansing and a transfer-out for Detroit.

Transfer-Out

Students are counted as "transfers-out," if their district exit status codes are any of the following codes:

- 08 Enrolled in another district in Michigan
- 09 Moved out of state
- 12 Deceased
- 13 Incarcerated
- 14 Enrolled in home school
- 15 Enrolled in non-public school
- 17 Placed in a recovery or rehabilitative program

If a special education student reaches the age of 22 as of December 1, 2005, the student is considered a transfer-out.

Retained-in-Grade

Retained-in-grade is an end of the year transaction. This number should reflect the number of students who did not attain enough credits to be promoted with their class to the next grade level. If a student is in the same grade in the fall 2006 submission as s/he was in the previous school year, then the student is considered retained-in-grade.

Students Located in Other Districts

Students who were missing or categorized as dropouts and were found attending different schools/facilities through a statewide search of the 2005-2006 school year submissions were counted as located. The following exit codes may be considered as dropouts if a student is not located in another district:

- 07 Dropped out of school
- 10 Expelled from the school district (no further services)
- 11 Enlisted in military or Job Corps
- 16 Unknown
- 18 Left adult education

If a student's UIC is submitted with one of the above exit codes, CEPI will check to see if the student's UIC is located anywhere in the state before the student is considered a dropout. School districts will receive credit for students who are located in other districts.

Fall 2006 Enrollment (September 27, 2006)

The fall 2006 enrollment for any given graduating class for any given school/facility is all the student records that meet all the following criteria:

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- district exit code equal to 19 (Field 23: District Exit Status)
- in grade 10, 11, or 12 (Field 19: Grade or Setting)
- if a special education student, less than 22 years old as of December 1, 2006 (Field 9: Date of Birth)
- combined general education and special education FTE is greater than or equal to 0.5 (Field 18: FTE, Field 40: FTE in Section 52, and Field 41: FTE in Section 53)
- a public school student per his/her residency code (Field 30: Residency)
- not an adult participant (Field 29: Program Eligibility/Participation).

Diploma Recipient

A student is considered a graduate if the student's record has any of the following four exit codes:

- 01 Graduated from general education with a diploma
- 02 Graduated from general education with a diploma and applied to a degree granting college/university
- 03 Graduated from an alternative program with a diploma
- 04 Graduated from general education and applied to a non-degree-granting institution.

In cases where an early promotion leads to a student graduating early, the student will be reported as a graduate for the grade reported during the fall 2005 submission.

Other High School Completer

For purposes of the 2005-2006 graduation and dropout rate calculations, a student with an exit code identifying him or her as an "other high school completer" will be considered a transfer-out. A completer is identified by the submission of a student record with one of the following exit codes:

GED Equivalency Certificate Recipient

- 05 Completed general education with an equivalency certificate (GED)

Other High School Completer

- 06 Completed general education with other certificate
- 20 Received special education certificate of completion
- 21 Reached maximum age for special education.

Appendix A

Student Mobility Categories

Categorization of Exit Codes into Student Mobility Categories* 2005-2006 Graduation and Dropout Rate		
Exit Code	Exit Definition	Mobility Category
01	Graduated from general education with a diploma	Diploma Recipient
02	Graduated from general education with diploma & applied to a degree-granting college/university	Diploma Recipient
03	Graduated from an alternative program with a diploma	Diploma Recipient
04	Graduated from general education and applied to a non-degree-granting institution	Diploma Recipient
05	Completed general education with an equivalency certificate (GED)	GED Equivalency Recipients Transfer-Out
06	Completed general education with other certificate (e.g., certificate of attendance, district competency test)	Other High School Completer Transfer-Out
07	Dropped out of school	If not located, dropout
08	Enrolled in another district in Michigan	Transfer-Out
09	Moved out of state	Transfer-Out
10	Expelled from the school district (no further services)	If not located, dropout
11	Enlisted in military or Job Corps	If not located, dropout
12	Deceased	Transfer-Out
13	Incarcerated	Transfer-Out
14	Enrolled in home school	Transfer-Out
15	Enrolled in non-public school	Transfer-Out
16	Unknown	If not located, dropout
17	Placed in a recovery or rehabilitative program	Transfer-Out
18	Left Adult Education	If not located, dropout
19	Expected to continue in the same school district	Continuing
20	Received Special Education certificate of completion and exited the K-12 system	Other High School Completer Transfer-Out
21	Special Education - Reached maximum age and exited the K-12 system	Other High School Completer Transfer-Out

Appendix B

Calculations for Retention, Graduation and Dropout Rates

Retention Rate Calculations

Class retention rates are determined by taking one graduation class (grade) at a time and dividing the fall 2006 enrollment by the fall 2005 enrollment, after all the transfers-in and transfers-out have been identified.

Example Calculation of Retention Rates					
	Class of 2009	Class of 2008	Class of 2007	Class of 2006	Total
1. Fall 2005 enrollment (+)	280	275	273	259	1,087
2. Net Transfer (+)	-24	30	-10	-27	-31
3. Net Retained in grade (+)	0	25	-25	0	0
4. Students located (-)	5	25	7	9	46
5. Expected Fall 2006 enrollment	251	305	231	223	1,010
6. Fall 2006 enrollment	247	299	225		771
7. Graduates (-)	0	0	0	220	220
8. Unaccounted-for (Dropouts)	4	6	6	3	19
9. Class Retention Rate	$247/251 =$.984	$299/305 =$.980	$225/231 =$.974	$220/223 =$.987	$991/1,010 =$.981

Graduation Rate Calculations

The graduation rate is a four-year "estimated" rate that is derived by multiplying the four graduating class retention rates together.

The following is an example calculation of the graduation rate based on the above table:

Class of 2009 Retention X Rate	Class of 2008 Retention X Rate	Class of 2007 Retention X Rate	Class of 2006 Retention Rate	
.984	.980	.974	.987	= .927 X 100 = 92.7 percent

Dropout Rate Calculations

The dropout rate is the percentage of unaccounted-for students at the secondary level for a school year. It is derived by subtracting the secondary school's/facility's total retention rate from 100 percent.

The following is an example calculation of the dropout rate based on the above table:

The total retention rate would be $991/1,010 = .981 \times 100 = 98.1$ percent
Therefore, the dropout rate would be: $100 - 98.1 = \mathbf{1.9}$ percent

Appendix C

Definitions

Continuing: A student who remains enrolled in the Michigan public school district.

Dropout: A student who has been assigned to a graduating class and does not graduate, or does not receive a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or is not considered a transfer, or whose enrollment status is otherwise unknown.

Dropout rate: The percentage of unaccounted-for students at the secondary level for a school year. The 2005-2006 dropout rate is derived by subtracting the total secondary level retention rate from 100 percent.

Diploma Recipient: A student who has successfully completed his/her general education requirements and received a diploma.

Graduation rate: The 2005-2006 graduation rate is a four-year estimated graduation rate that is derived by multiplying the four graduating class retention rates.

Located student: A student who would have been identified as missing or a dropout (see Appendix A); however, the student was subsequently located in another school district in the state.

New enrollee: Any student who enrolls on or after the fall 2005 count day and before the fall 2006 count day.

Retention rate: The percentage of students who are accounted-for within a graduating class. The class retention rate is determined by taking the fall 2006 enrollment and dividing by the fall 2005 enrollment, after all the transfers have been processed.

Transfer-out: A student who exits the school/facility or district and is removed from the graduating class for purposes of calculating the graduation and dropout rates.

Transfer-in: A student who is added to a graduating class for purposes of calculating the graduation and dropout rates.

Unique Identification Number (UIC): A ten digit number that is randomly assigned by the state to each student.