

Four-Year and Five-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates

Fact Sheet

What is the Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate?

A group of students, who begin as first-time ninth graders in a particular school year and who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less. The cohort is "adjusted" by adding any students transferring into the cohort and by subtracting any students who transfer out, emigrate to another country or die during the years covered by the rate.

What is the Four-Year Graduation Formula?

The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate measures the percent of students in a ninth grade cohort that graduate with a regular diploma in four years or less. Federal regulations require states to report and use a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{\# of cohort members who earned a regular high school} \\ \text{diploma by the end of the 2014-2015 school year} \\ \text{\# of first-time 9}^{\text{th}} \text{ graders in fall 2011 (starting cohort)} \\ + \text{ students who transfer in, (during school years 2011-} \\ \text{2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015)} \\ - \text{ students who transfer out, emigrate, or die (during} \\ \text{school years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-} \\ \text{2015)} \end{array}}{\text{\# of cohort members who earned a regular high school}} \times 100$$

What is the Five-Year Adjusted Cohort?

The five-year adjusted cohort rate measures the percent of students in a ninth grade cohort that graduate with a regular diploma in five years, which incentivizes districts that work with students who need the additional year to graduate from high school. This rate will be used as part of the ESEA school-wide designations.

What is the Five-Year Graduation Formula?

Federal regulations require states to report and use a five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{\# of cohort members who earned a regular high school} \\ \text{diploma by the end of the 2014-2015 school year} \\ \text{\# of first-time 9}^{\text{th}} \text{ graders in fall 2010 (starting cohort)} \\ + \text{ students who transfer in (during school years 2010-} \\ \text{2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015)} \\ - \text{ students who transfer out, emigrate, or die (during} \\ \text{school years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-} \\ \text{2014, 2014-2015)} \end{array}}{\text{\# of cohort members who earned a regular high school}} \times 100$$

What is the Graduation Rate Target?

There is a single, statewide goal of 85% for the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, and a single, statewide goal of 87.5% for the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. The 85% target was used beginning in the 2012-2013 accountability year.

Schools not meeting the statewide targets of 85% (4-year) and 87.5% (5-year) may meet the graduation rate by demonstrating progress in reducing the distance to the state goal annually by one-tenth or by showing, over a three-year average, that the distance is reduced by at least one-tenth per year. Each high school and district will have individual targets based on their starting graduation rate.



How Many Students are Necessary for Graduation Rate to be Calculated for Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO)?

The WV Accountability System uses a minimum cell size of 20 students across all grades in a school to identify a valid subgroup. Schools are held accountable for proficiency rates in Mathematics and English/Language Arts, achievement gaps, observed growth, adequate growth and attendance/graduation rates.

Where can I find the Graduation Cohort data?

The graduation cohort data are available through WVEIS on the Web (WOW) under SPE200-SPE.ADA and on

West Virginia State Department of Education

Office of Special Education * 1-800-642-8541 * <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/>

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Zoom WV Data Dashboard. You may also use the WV Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Guide.

This information was developed from the following resources:

- West Virginia Department of Education
<http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/Transition/WV4-yearAdjustedCohortRevisedMay2012.pdf>
- West Virginia Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates Guide
http://wveis.k12.wv.us/wveis2004/documents/WV%20Adjusted%20Cohort%20Guidance_091913.pdf