Graduates & Dropouts
in the Data Clearinghouse

USOE Data Conference

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Finance and Statistics

Documentation

- Utah AYP Plan (Accountability Workbook)
  www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/nclb/documents/pdf/AYPPlan.pdf
  - Principle 7.1 (pp. 34-36)
  - Originally published July 2003; current version April 2004
- State Board of Education Rules
  - R277-419 Pupil Accounting (dropout definition in effect since 1997)
  - R277-484 Data Standards

Definition: Graduate

- "Graduate" means a student who met the requirements for a basic high school diploma or alternative completion diploma established in R277-705-4(B)(1) and (2), respectively.
- Students who received a certificate of completion, as defined in R277-705-4(C), or a GED, shall be counted as dropouts for the purpose of calculating the ***graduation rate***.

Definition: Dropout

- "Dropout" means an individual in grades 7-12 who left a public school or district or state approved school program and whose status under one of the exceptions listed in R277-419-5(B) by October 1 of the next year is not supported by ***competent documentary evidence***.

Definition: Competent Documentary Evidence

- "Competent documentary evidence" means evidence in written form that would satisfy an auditor when the auditor applies tests of evidence as described in the Government Auditing Standards, also known as the Yellow Book, published by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

  http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm

R277-419-5
Dropout Exceptions

A student who left school prior to the last day of the school year is not a dropout if, by **October 1** of the following school year, the student is:

- (1) enrolled in school
- (2) not in attendance due to suspension, illness, or other extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the student, provided that the school is officially notified and services are provided consistent with this rule [R277-419-4-C]
- (3) transferred to another public school, a state or district approved program, or a regularly organized private school, as evidenced by an official request for the student's records by the receiving school by October 1 of the following year
- (4) transferred to a home school, if the student receives a release annually from the public school district of residence, and the student provides verification to the school district's satisfaction that the student is being taught consistent with Section 53A-11-102
- (5) graduated early
- (6) dead

Dropout Audit

- Revised “legal compliance audit guidelines” regarding new dropout data collection mechanism will be presented at UASBO on March 21, 2005, for use in October 2005.

http://www.sao.state.ut.us/sulcag/APPC5.htm

Data Collection:
3 Types of Students

- Grades 7-11 enrolled on last day
  - Cannot be a dropout
- Grades 7-12 <u>not</u> enrolled on last day
  - Must have Exit Code
- Grade 12 enrolled on last day
  - Must have High School Completion Status

Data Collection: 2 Instruments

- July 15 Clearinghouse
  - S1.Exit_Code
  - S1.High_School_Completion_Status
  - S2.Scram_Exit_Reason
- October 15 Clearinghouse
  - ES.Exit_Code

Data Collection:
1 Ultimate Repository

- LEA >
- Data Clearinghouse file >
- Data Warehouse database >
- Student Master table >
  - one record for each student ever enrolled in Utah public school
- High School Completion Status field

Data Clearinghouse: High School Completion Status

- All students who are seniors (GRADE LEVEL = 12) and who do not have an EXIT CODE must have one of the following codes indicating the final outcome of their schooling:
  - **GR** = Basic High School Diploma
  - **AC** = Alternative Completion Diploma
  - **CT** = Certificate of Completion
  - **RT** = Retained Senior (becomes member of following cohort)
  - **GP** = Graduation Pending (dropout unless ES record in following October)
  - **DO** = Dropout

Data Clearinghouse: Early Graduate Exit Code

- *If* EXIT CODE indicates “Early Graduate” (11, Q1, Q2, Q3, T1, T2)
- *Then* HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION STATUS must be “Basic High School Diploma” (GR)

Data Clearinghouse: SCRAM Exit Reason

- Identifies the reason this student exited this type of **special education** related services:
  - A = Returned to regular placement
  - D = Reached maximum age
  - S = Service change
- *If* "Reached maximum age" (D), *then* HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION STATUS must be "Dropout" (DO)

Data Clearinghouse: Exit Status Change Record

- Codes are mix of possibilities from EXIT CODE and HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION STATUS
- Use is optional, only in October upload, and for students identified in previous July upload as:
  - Dropouts, Expelled, Suspended
  - Graduation Pending

  or
  - 11th Grade, if became Early Graduate during summer

Formula: Graduation Rate

- "Graduation rate" is the count of graduates in a cohort divided by the sum of graduates and dropouts in the cohort
- When the unit of analysis is the school, the graduation rate is based only on members of the cohort who were enrolled in 10th grade or later

Graduation Rate: Data Sources

RptYr	Class	Grad Source	Dropout Source
05	04	CLH:July > SS	SS:04.12,03.11,02.10
06	05	CLH:Jul&Oct > WH	WH:12; SS:04.11,03.10
07	06	WH	WH:12,11; SS:04.10
08	07	WH	WH

CLH = Clearinghouse
SS = Spreadsheet
WH = Warehouse
10,11,12 = Grades

Formula: Dropout Rate

- The preferred "dropout rate" is one minus the cohort graduation rate
- The cohort dropout rate is defined only for LEAs and schools which serve 12th grade students
- For other grades, an (annual) event dropout rate may be defined as dropouts as of October 1 divided by enrollment on the previous October 1.