Graduation Rate Calculation

The term Graduation Rate may refer to the Florida Graduation Rate, the NCLB Graduation Rate (used in AYP), the National Governor’s Association (NGA) Graduation Rate, and the Federal Uniform Rate.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will use the NGA Graduation Rate in the high school grading calculations for years 2009-10 and 2010-11 and the Federal Uniform Rate for years 2011-12 and beyond.

How is the graduation rate calculated?

- All models use the same method to calculate the graduation rate, but differ in the definition of a graduate.
- The number of students who graduate within four years is divided by the number of students who entered four years earlier after adjusting for students who transfer in and out of the school and for deceased students.

What are the steps to calculating the graduation rate?

**Step 1:** Build the cohort. The cohort includes all students entering the school in grade 9, plus incoming transfers.

Incoming transfers include
- ninth graders who enter in the first year of the cohort (FY2006-07),
- tenth graders who enter in the second year of the cohort (FY2007-08),
- eleventh graders who enter in the third year of the cohort (FY2008-09), and
- twelfth graders who enter in the fourth final year of the cohort (FY2009-10).

**Step 2:** Create the adjusted cohort. Remove outgoing transfers from each grade level and deceased students.

Outgoing transfers include
- ninth graders who left in the first year of the cohort (FY2006-07),
- tenth graders who left in the second year of the cohort (FY2007-08),
- eleventh graders who left in the third year of the cohort (FY2008-09), and
- twelfth graders who left in the fourth or final year of the cohort (FY2009-10).

Students may transfer to:
- other public high schools (including DJJs*) or private high schools;
- home-education programs; and
- Adult-education programs*

* Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients are considered non-graduates in the Federal Uniform Rate Model.

The adjusted cohort becomes the denominator.
Step 3: Determine the numerator.

- Students included in the denominator who graduate within four years are the students classified as on-time graduates.

**Definition of a Graduate by Graduation Rate Model**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Rate Model</th>
<th>Numerator (on-time graduates)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Graduation Rate</td>
<td>• Standard diploma recipients&lt;br&gt;• Special diploma recipients&lt;br&gt;• All GEDs diploma recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCLB Rate</td>
<td>• Standard diploma recipients&lt;br&gt;• High School (not adult) GED diploma recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA Rate</td>
<td>• Standard diploma recipients&lt;br&gt;• Special diploma recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Uniform Rate</td>
<td>• Standard diploma recipients</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students who are **not** included:
  - dropouts,
  - those who do not graduate on-time, and
  - those who do not attain a qualifying diploma.

Step 4: Determine Graduation Rate. Divide the numerator by the denominator.

For detailed information regarding cohort adjustment, graduates and non-graduates diploma codes and classification, or information on the other graduation rate models, please click on the following links on the Department of Assessment web site:


You may contact Nancy E. Brito by email, briton@palmbeach.k12.fl.us or phone, 561-357-7521, PX47521.
All graduation rate models use the same method to calculate the graduation rate, but differ in the definition of a graduate.