



Office of the
State Superintendent of Education

MEMORANDUM

Tentative Data to be sent for Your Review
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO: DC Principals and School Leaders

FROM: Tamara Reavis 
Director, Standards, Assessment and Accountability

DATE: June 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

By mid October, the Office of the State Superintendent for the District of Columbia will release new federally mandated Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates for every public school in the District. This new rate was initially introduced in the Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook, March 2, 2009, page 3 and the Assessment and Accountability Manual, page 20. The formula by which the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate is calculated was described in the December 2010 Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Guidance and posted on the following web pages:

http://www.osse.dc.gov/se0/frames.asp?doc=/seo/lib/se0/State_Graduation_Rate_Methods.pdf
http://www.osse.dc.gov/se0/frames.asp?doc=/seo/lib/se0/District_of_Columbia_Adjusted_Cohort_Graduation_Rate_Guidance_December_2010.pdf

Adjusted Graduation Rate Calculation

The past practice has been to utilize a Graduate Leaver or Departure Classification Index to determine the graduation rate. The new Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, will track individual students who first enrolled in the ninth grade in Fall 2007, and graduate four years later with a regular diploma.

The new formula allows the Office of the State Superintendent to calculate and disaggregate data required to meet No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reporting requirements. The U.S. Department of Education requires states to report their graduation rates every year for all high school students. The rate must be calculated by socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, disability, limited English language proficiency, gender and migrant status. In February 2009, the Office of the State Superintendent began to collect and store student-level demographic data from all Lead Educational Agencies (LEAs) into the state longitudinal data system (SLED).

This memorandum serves to introduce the process by which LEAs will have the opportunity to review preliminary SLED data and to validate the 2010 cohort graduation report.

Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and Impact on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

For AYP calculations, the State uses the previous year graduation rate. For this reason, the change in methodology will have no impact on AYP for 2011. The 2011 graduation rate calculated under the new methodology will, however, be used in the 2012 AYP calculations.

Limitations of the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

There are a number of advantages to the adoption of the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate: (a) ease of cross-state comparisons; (b) more accurate tracking of individual students; and (c) the disaggregation of graduation data. However, the use of the new formula may mean decreases in the graduation rates for most schools in the District of Columbia. Some may make an assumption that lower graduation rates are due to an increase in the dropout rate. When using the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate formula, on-time graduates, students graduating on an extended schedule, and students transferring out of District public schools will be determined before calculations are made to determine the Dropout Rate.

Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Implementation Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Task</u>
June 15	OSSE sends Preliminary Adjusted Cohort Graduate List to schools and LEAs for reconciliation and comments.
June 16- July 29	<u>Technical Assistance, Open Comment and Initial Appeals Period</u>
	Schools and LEAs review the Preliminary Adjusted Cohort Graduate List, add comments, make recommendations and suggested edits to the 'Transferred In' and 'Transferred Out' fields.
	OSSE to visit LEAs to provide guidance and technical assistance.
Sept 1	LEAs and schools send to OSSE, a list of certified graduates for 2010-2011.
Sept 1- Sept 15	OSSE sends Final Adjusted Cohort Graduate List to schools and LEAs to include the Appeals form.
Sept 15- Sept 30	<u>Final Appeal Period</u>
	If necessary, LEAs and schools have the option to begin the formal process for appealing individual student assignment in designated Adjusted Cohort Graduate Lists.
Oct 1	OSSE sends final appeal determinations to LEAs and schools, as applicable.
Oct 7	<u>Final Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate</u>
	OSSE to run Final Adjusted Cohort Rate.