



Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation and Completion Calculation Guidance

FOR DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

January 2026

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Background/History

Graduation rates are an indicator used in determining the success of high schools. This rate reports how well schools are performing in helping students achieve the rigorous high school curriculum standards established by the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE). The graduation rate is the percentage of students who have successfully earned a regular high school diploma within four years of entering the ninth grade. The State Board of Education's Strategic Plan is intrinsically connected with graduation rates, particularly Goal Two: *Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career.*

Mississippi Code related to Graduation

The Mississippi Legislature has focused heavily on dropout prevention. Schools with a graduation rate of less than 80% are required to develop a plan for increasing opportunities for students to successfully complete requirements for earning a high school diploma [Miss. Code Ann. §37-16-7(1)(c)]. Mississippi Code Ann. §37-16-11 outlines the requirements for special diplomas or certificates of completion. Mississippi Code Ann. §37-17-6(5)(iii) establishes the four-year graduation rate as an accountability criterion for schools and districts. The four-year rates are also required by Miss. Code Ann. §37-21-9(d) to be reported annually: *Report annually to the Mississippi Legislature on the graduation and dropout rates based on Grades 7 through 12 and Grades 9 through 12 cohort groups, statewide and by district.*

Graduation rates are also used as a criterion for identifying schools for recognition such as the Mississippi Blue Ribbon Schools program.

Definitions of Graduate, Completer, Still Enrolled, and Dropout

Mississippi follows the definition of a high school graduate as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 8101(25). This section of the law defines a **graduate** as a student who receives a "regular high school diploma" at the conclusion of the student's fourth year in high school, before the conclusion of his/her fourth year in high school, or during the summer session immediately following his/her fourth year in high school. The four-year period begins the first time the student enrolls in 9th grade (or peer grade equivalent for ungraded students). Section 8101(25) later defines a regular high school diploma as a standard high school diploma awarded to students that is fully aligned with the State's academic content standards. This definition does not include a general education development certificate (GED), certificate of completion, or any alternative



certificate(s) awarded by the State. Mississippi offers multiple pathways for earning a regular high school diploma, as outlined in Appendix A of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*. Students earning a diploma through any of the following options within the allowable four-year window will be considered graduates in the graduation rate calculation:

- Traditional Diploma (Appendix A-6) (Beginning with incoming 9th graders of 2018-2019)
- Traditional Diploma with Endorsements (Appendices A-7, A-8, and A-9) (Beginning with incoming 9th graders of 2018-2019)
- Alternate Diploma (Appendix A-10) (Beginning with incoming 9th graders of 2018-2019)

Students earning an Alternate Diploma as outlined in Appendix A-10 prior to reaching the maximum age for services as provided under section 612(a)(1) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will be considered a graduate in the cohort to which they are assigned. Students on track to earn an Alternate Diploma may have their cohort assignment adjusted if they continue beyond the fourth year of their original cohort.

A high school **completer** is defined as a student earning a recognized equivalent of a diploma. Alternative certificates include the certificate of completion (Appendix A-11 of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*) and GED. Only those students earning a GED through the local school district's alternative education program are considered completers. Students earning a GED while participating in programs outside of the local school district are considered dropouts in the calculation. Students who have successfully completed all of the Carnegie unit requirements for graduation but have not met the requirement for passing all of the end-of-course, subject area assessments or meeting an option in lieu of passing the assessments as provided in Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.4 and R. 36.5 and Appendix A-5 of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* are also considered completers.

Students classified as **still enrolled** are those who have re-enrolled in school for a fifth year to complete requirements for earning a standard diploma or alternative certificate. Students in this category must have been enrolled in a Mississippi public school district during the first period of the academic year immediately following the end of the four-year cohort window.



Dropouts are those students who leave school without earning a diploma/alternative certificate or legitimately transferring to an accredited public or non-public school program resulting in a high school diploma. Students transferring to a community-based GED program are considered dropouts.

Assignment of Cohort Rates to Districts and Schools

All districts and schools who serve students enrolled in 12th grade will be assigned annual cohort rates for graduation, completion, still enrolled, and dropout. Cohort rates are based on the final dispositions of students who entered 9th grade four years prior. Since the data used in rate calculations are not finalized until the following fall semester, the calculation and reporting of rates are lagged one year.

Middle schools (or secondary level schools that do not contain 12th grade) will not be assigned a graduation rate. Though students may be placed in a cohort while enrolled in a middle school, the school will not have an official graduation rate assigned/reported.

Data Requirements

Student demographic and educational data are captured in the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS). This system is used to track students throughout their duration in the K-12 Mississippi public school system. The data captured through MSIS are used in identifying students to be placed in the cohort and final disposition of the students. The indicators identified below are generated from MSIS in order to calculate graduation rates and to determine subgroup reporting requirements.

Student Demographic Information

The Student Demographic data elements are used in determining students' placement in a cohort and student subgroup. Each of the data elements below (with the exception of the Student Identifier) are based on the data reported during month eight of the fourth year of the cohort window. If month eight data are not available, the most recent data on record are used.



Data Element	Description
Student Identifier	Student's unique nine-digit MSIS identification number
Student First Name	First name of the student
Student Last Name	Last name of the student
Student Middle Initial	Middle initial of the student, if available
Date of Birth	Date of birth of the student
Bio-physiological Gender	Sex of the student
Race	Race/Nationality of the student
Economically Disadvantaged Status	Economically disadvantaged (free and reduced lunch) status of the student
Student with Disability Status	Disability status of the student
Significant Cognitive Disability Status	Significant cognitive disability status of the student
English Learner Status	English learner status of the student
Migrant Status	Migrant status of the student

Student Enrollment Information

Student enrollment data is collected for each of the 36 months of enrollment (nine months per academic year) during the four-year cohort window. The data capture the last enrollment or withdrawal record of the month to determine where a student was enrolled for calculating graduation rates. The data are used to identify student membership in a cohort group and to assign students to a district and school based on where students were enrolled during the four-year window. Students are assigned to the school and district of longest enrollment during the four-year cohort window. If a student has equal enrollment in two or more districts and/or schools, the student will be assigned to the school and district of final enrollment.



Data Element	Description
Academic Year	Four-digit year value
Month	Months 1-36
District ID	Unique four-digit district identification number assigned by the State
School ID	Unique seven-digit school identification number assigned by the State
Enrollment Date	Date the student enrolled in the school
Grade	Grade level in which the student was enrolled
Withdrawal Date	Date the student withdrew from school
Withdrawal Type	Type of withdrawal or transfer
Promotion/Graduate Type	Final status of student at the end of enrollment

District and School Demographic Information

The data elements below are used in determining which districts and schools should be assigned a graduation rate.



Data Element	Description
District ID	Unique four-digit district identification number assigned by the State
District Name	Name of the district
Previous Year District Grade Configuration	Grade levels served by the district during the previous academic year
Current Year District Grade Configuration	Grade levels served by the district during the current academic year
School ID	Unique seven-digit school identification number assigned by the State
School Name	Name of the school
Previous Year School Grade Configuration	Grade levels served by the school during the previous academic year
Current Year School Grade Configuration	Grade levels served by the school during the current academic year

Identification of Students in a Cohort Group

A student enters a cohort once a student enroll in 9th grade for the first time. Students who are ungraded (*i.e.*, enrolled in Grades 56, 58, or 78) are placed in a cohort based on their peer age. The use of ungraded grades was discontinued beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Students who were placed in a cohort prior to 2024-2025 based on an ungraded level will remain in that cohort. Once a student is placed in a cohort group, the student remains in the cohort regardless of whether the student repeats or skips a grade level during the four-year period. Students who enter a Mississippi public school in a grade higher than 9th grade (or peer grade equivalent higher than 9th grade) are placed in the same cohort as their peer group. A student transferring from a private/non-public school to a Mississippi public school in Grades 10, 11, or 12 will be placed in the same cohort group as the current students in Grades 10, 11, or 12.

The cohort file is developed after the verification of the summer activity data by school attendance officers during the Fall of the academic year following the end of the cohort window.

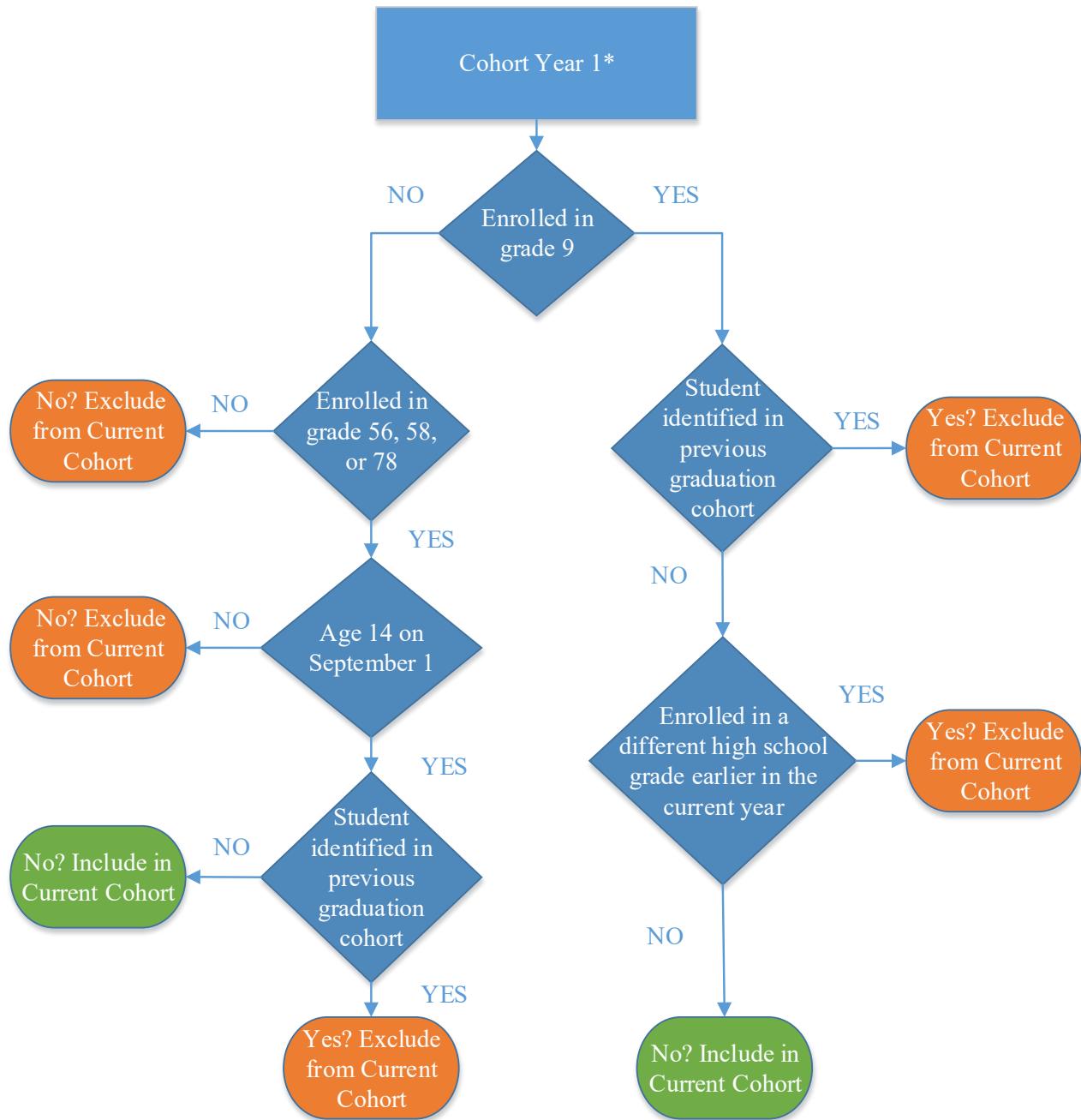


Entering a Cohort

The full graduation cohort is constructed using the following rules:

- Year 1: Students entering the cohort for the first time at the beginning of the starting year for the cohort
 - All students entering Grade 9 for the first time at any time during Year 1
 - Prior to SY 2024-2025, all 56/58/78 students age 14 on September 1st of Year 1
 - CHECK to ensure the following:
 - Students did not enroll in Grades 10, 11, or 12 prior to entry into Grade 9 during Year 1, and
 - All students above were not in an earlier cohort.
- Year 2: Add students entering Grade 10 at any time during Year 2.
 - All students entering Grade 10 for the first time at any time during Year 2
 - Prior to SY 2024-2025, all 56/58/78 students age 15 on September 1st of Year 2
 - CHECK to ensure the following:
 - students did not enroll in Grades 9, 11, or 12 prior to entry into Grade 10 during Year 2, and
 - All students above were not in an earlier or later cohort.
- Year 3: Add students entering Grade 11 at any time during Year 3.
 - All students entering Grade 11 for the first time at any time during Year 3
 - Prior to SY 2024-2025, all 56/58/78 students age 16 on September 1st of Year 3
 - CHECK to ensure the following:
 - students did not enroll in Grades 9, 10, or 12 prior to Year 3 entry into Grade 11, and
 - All students above were not in an earlier or later cohort.
- Year 4: Add students entering Grade 12 at any time during Year 4.
 - All students entering Grade 12 for the first time at any time during Year 4
 - Prior to SY 2024-2025, all 56/58/78 students age 17 on September 1st of Year 4
 - CHECK to ensure the following:
 - students did not enroll in Grades 9, 10, or 11 prior to Year 4 entry into Grade 12, and
 - All students above were not in an earlier or later cohort.





*For each Cohort Year, the grade in the first decision box (i.e., Enrolled in grade 9) will change accordingly (i.e., Year 2, grade 10; Year 3, grade 11; Year 4, grade 12).



Determining Student Status

Final status indicators

At the end of the four-year tracking period, the entire set of MSIS data pertaining to the student will be examined chronologically (from the earliest available recorded events to the latest) and any “final disposition” events will be identified. Final disposition events captured by the system include dropouts, documented transfers out-of-state, documented transfers to a non-public school, death, and school completion (regular diploma, special education certificate of completion, GED earned through the district’s alternative education program, and school completion without passing all required end-of-course subject area assessments or meeting an option in lieu of passing the assessments as provided in Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.4 and R. 36.5 and Appendix A-5 of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*. Transfers within the public school system are not considered transfer events.

MSIS Indicators: Translation for Verification and Calculation files

Codes used in MSIS, such as those below, are “translated” for the verification files and graduation rate calculations for simplicity. For more information on the MSIS codes, please review the [MSIS Cohort Verification Status Mapping Document](#).

Legacy MSIS Code	New MSIS Exit Code	MSIS Description	Verification and Calculation Status
T	01921	Graduated with regular, advanced, International Baccalaureate, or other type of diploma <i>NOTE: Student must also have Diploma Type (00806 – Regular Diploma, 00807 – Endorsed/advanced diploma, or 7500 – Alternate Diploma) reflected in MSIS.</i>	Graduate
OD, O, C1, C2	01922	Completed school with other credentials <i>NOTE: Student must also have Diploma Type (00812 - Alternative credential, 00813 - Certificate of attendance, 00814 -</i>	Completer



Legacy MSIS Code	New MSIS Exit Code	MSIS Description	Verification and Calculation Status
		<i>Certificate of completion, or 00818 - Post graduate certificate (grade 13)) reflected in MSIS.</i>	
G	01922	Completed school with other credentials <i>NOTE: Student must remain enrolled at the district while earning the GED. Once student has earned the GED, the Exit code 01922 can be sent to MSIS along with Diploma Type 00816 - General Educational Development (GED) credential. Only students who are awarded a GED from an MDE-Approved GED Program offered at their district's alternative school setting can use this Exit code and Diploma Type.</i>	Completer
FL01	01928	Completed Grade 12, but did not meet all graduation requirements <i>NOTE: Student must meet all Carnegie unit requirements for graduation.</i>	Completer
IS*, SA*	N/A	Students who are still enrolled will not have an exit code, but will have one of the following entry codes in MSIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01821 - Transfer from a public school in the same local education agency • 01822 - Transfer from a public school in a different local education agency in the same state • 01830 - Transfer from a school outside of the country • 01833 - Transfer from home schooling 	Still Enrolled



Legacy MSIS Code	New MSIS Exit Code	MSIS Description	Verification and Calculation Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01835 - Re-entry from the same school with no interruption of schooling • 01836 - Re-entry after a voluntary withdrawal • 01837 - Re-entry after an involuntary withdrawal • 74001 - Initial Enrollment for the School Year • 74002 - Transfer from a private school in the state • 74003 - Transfer from a school outside of state 	
D, SD01-SD20	01927	Discontinued schooling	Dropout
D, SD01-SD20	01924	Withdrawn due to illness	Dropout
D, SD01-SD20	01925	Expelled or involuntarily withdrawn	Dropout
D, SD01-SD20	01926	Reached maximum age for services	Dropout
T7, ST07	73060	Officially withdrew and enrolled in ABE, adult secondary education, or adult ESL program <i>Note: As of July 1, 2010, all GED recipients granted outside the public school district are considered dropouts for federal reporting. Districts should not use a diploma type code in MSIS if the student receives their GED outside of the public</i>	Dropout



Legacy MSIS Code	New MSIS Exit Code	MSIS Description	Verification and Calculation Status
		<i>school district. See 01922, Completed school with other credentials above.</i>	
Unknown Status	01931	Not enrolled, unknown status	Dropout
T4, ST04	73068	Transfer to a private school in the state	Removed from Cohort
T5, ST05	73067	Transfer to a school outside of state <i>NOTE: Includes transfer to a school outside of the country.</i>	Removed from Cohort
T8, ST08	01918	Transfer to home schooling	Removed from Cohort
Z1, SZ01	73064	Died	Removed from Cohort

Data Verification Process

MSIS Cohort Reports

Districts and schools are expected to review and confirm enrollment and completion data on a monthly basis as reported through monthly MSIS submissions. In order to assist districts and schools with this ongoing data review, a cohort report is available in MSIS under Data Analytics > Reports. Click on the Reports tab and scroll to the Student Section to find the Cohort Report. Districts may filter the report by school and by cohort year (based on the school year of entry). Students reflected in the report are students assigned to the associated cohort academic year who are either currently enrolled in the school or were last enrolled in the school. It is the responsibility of the school/district of final enrollment to ensure that the final status of the student is correct, regardless of the student's final assignment.



Annual District Timelines are published each school year and posted in the MSIS Annual Reporting Calendar on the MSIS webpage (<https://mdek12.org/msis/msis-calendar/>).

Districts must meet deadlines to ensure that the data used in the graduation rate calculations are correct. As an example, the timeline for September and October of the 2025-2026 academic year is provided below:

SEPTEMBER

Current school year data

- **Sept 30: Complete a monthly data review** (clear errors and verify the accuracy of reports in preparation for Month 1):
 - Request MSIS IDs as needed and resolve Student Ownership Conflicts
 - Ensure School Management screens are current
 - Upload/Review Finance data
 - Review/Update Organization data
 - Review/Update Student data (Attendance, Enrollment, Student Demographics)
 - Review/Update Course Section data
 - Review/Update Discipline data
 - Review/Update Personnel data
 - Review/Update Federal Programs data
 - Review/Update Special Education data

Previous school year data

- **Sept 30: Update Grades & Promotions Manual Input Screen** as needed for any summer graduates. **Ensure the Graduates & Completers Report** reflects any changes after Month 9 certification and summer sessions.

OCTOBER

- Current school year data
 - **Oct 1-10: Certify Month 1 Course Section, Discipline, Organization, and Student data (Attendance, Enrollment, Student Demographics).**
 - Oct 7: Provide initial Student Intervention data for all students who prepopulated on the Student Intervention manual input screen
 - Oct 10: Update the Kindergarten Entry Data Entry Download Report by providing the prior setting for all students
 - Oct 15: Certify Finance (FETS) and Bond Data
 - Oct 15: Certify National Board Certified Staff data



- **Oct 31: Update Summer Activity Data Entry Download Report** for students who did not return to your district for the 2025-2026SY (select 2024-2025 from the school year filter).
- **Oct 31: Complete Monthly Data Review** (clear errors and verify the accuracy of reports in preparation for Month 2):
 - Request MSIS IDs as needed and resolve Student Ownership Conflicts
 - Ensure School Management screens are current
 - Upload/Review Finance data
 - Review/Update Organization data
 - Review/Update Student data (Attendance, Enrollment, Student Demographics)
 - Review/Update Course Section data
 - Review/Update Discipline data
 - Review/Update Personnel data
 - Review/Update CTE data
 - Review/Update Federal Programs data
 - Review/Update Special Education data
- Previous school year data
 - **Oct 31: Update Graduation Options Data Entry Download Report** with an approved graduation option for students who did not earn a passing score on end-of-course assessments.
 - **Oct 31: Request any updates to Cohorts** in the Cohort manual input screen.

Withdrawing Students from the Cohort

The effective date of student withdrawal is the first day after the last day of attendance, if known; otherwise, the date of withdrawal is considered to be the date on which it becomes known officially that the student left the school/district.

It is important to note that once a student is withdrawn, the district must code the student as a transfer or dropout adhering to the following:

- If a school district does not have official documentation (i.e., anything in writing that identifies the retrieving or requesting entity) at the time of the withdrawal, the student must be coded as a dropout until the appropriate documentation can be obtained.



- The district must complete a “Records Change” form that can be found on the MSIS web page to change the dropout to a transfer
<https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/MSIS/msisrecordchangeformforstateauditorprogramoffices.pdf>.
- Students in high school that withdraw from a public school district cannot be removed from a cohort unless the student is coded as a transfer or withdrawn due to death.
- A transfer out of cohort can only occur when a student leaves a school and enrolls in another school (public, non-public/private, parochial, or home) or in an educational program that awards a regular high school diploma. According to Section 8101(25) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, a student who is retained in grade, enrolls in a General Educational Development (GED) program, or leaves school for any other reason may not be counted as having transferred out for the purpose of calculating graduation rate and must remain in the adjusted cohort.
- A student can be removed if a local education agency obtains written confirmation prior to coding the student as a transfer (*Every Student Succeeds Act, § 8101(25)*).
- If a student moves to another public school within the State, that transfer can be officially documented in the student file and recorded in MSIS. The withdrawal entry should be entered prior to the enrollment entry in the other public school.

Required Documentation

Verified Status	Supporting Documentation
Traditional Diploma Recipient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of the diploma. • Cumulative record of student with the diploma recorded.
Certificate of Completion Recipient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of the certificate. • Cumulative record of student with the certificate recorded.
District - Issued GED Recipient	Copy of the GED certificate with documentation that it was received from a Mississippi public high school.



Verified Status	Supporting Documentation
Failing to meet all End-of-Course Subject Area Assessment Passing Scores or Options in Lieu of Passing	District policy outlining graduation requirements and records of student demonstrating student's fulfillment of the requirements.
Transfer To a Non-Public School	Request for records on letterhead from the receiving school or letter from receiving school that the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment.
Transfer Out-of-State/Out-of-Country	Request for records or enrollment verification on letterhead from the receiving school. Written documentation from family or foreign exchange program with withdrawal date is adequate for out-of-country transfers only .
Transfer to a State Special School	If the transfer is recorded in MSIS, a note indicating the transfer is sufficient. If the transfer is not recorded in MSIS, the transfer must be recorded on letterhead from the receiving school.
Transfer to Home School	Letter from the school attendance officer acknowledging transfer of student to home school.
Deceased	Obituary or death notice from local paper.

School Attendance Officers

School attendance officers are provided for in Miss. Code Ann. §37-13-89 and are charged with the following duties:

- a) Cooperate with any public agency to locate and identify all compulsory-school-age children who are not attending school;
- b) Cooperate with all courts of competent jurisdiction;
- c) Investigate all cases of nonattendance and unlawful absences by compulsory-school-age children not enrolled in a nonpublic school;
- d) Provide appropriate counseling to encourage all school-age children to attend school until they have completed high school;
- e) Attempt to secure the provision of social or welfare services that may be required to enable any child to attend school;
- f) Contact the home or place of residence of a compulsory-school-age child and any other place in which the officer is likely to find any compulsory-school-age



child when the child is absent from school during school hours without a valid written excuse from school officials, and when the child is found, the officer shall notify the parents and school officials as to where the child was physically located;

- g) Contact promptly the home of each compulsory-school-age child in the school district within the officer's jurisdiction who is not enrolled in school or is not in attendance at public school and is without a valid written excuse from school officials; if no valid reason is found for the nonenrollment or absence from the school, the school attendance officer shall give written notice to the parent, guardian or custodian of the requirement for the child's enrollment or attendance;
- h) Collect and maintain information concerning absenteeism, dropouts and other attendance-related problems, as may be required by law or the Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement; and
- i) Perform all other duties relating to compulsory school attendance established by the State Department of Education or district school attendance supervisor, or both.

School Attendance Officers work with districts/schools to verify the status of students at the beginning of each school year that are considered "no-shows." This process should be utilized to further review and update the status of students in MSIS each September so that students who are not in attendance do not continue with an enrolled status in MSIS.

Additionally, School Attendance Officers must verify the final status of students during the review of Summer Activity data in October of each year. This is the final opportunity to review and update the official record in MSIS for the prior academic year. Once the Summer Activity period has been reviewed, verified and submitted to the MDE, the prior-year academic record is finalized and considered part of the permanent record to be used in the calculation of graduation rates.



Review of Graduation Rate Calculations

Following the release of preliminary cohort rates, districts and schools are afforded an opportunity to submit requests for internal review, if the district believes that an error has been made in the calculation of the rates. (Data submitted by the district in MSIS in prior academic years that have been finalized will not be changed during this process.) The request must include a clear description of the error believed to exist in the calculation of the rates or related data and submitted to the MDE Office of Accountability along with supporting documentation by the deadline established by the MDE. (The deadline for submission will be communicated along with the release of preliminary data.) Following this final review, cohort rates are submitted to the SBE.

Final Review and Reporting Process



Cohort Rate Calculations

The cohort rates for graduation are calculated based on the number of students in a cohort who earn a regular high school diploma within four years after entering the 9th grade for the first time. This cohort-based method provides the rate at which students are completing high school on-time. In many cases, students do not spend the entire four-year period enrolled in the same school; therefore, students are assigned to the district and school of longest enrollment, based on monthly enrollment. In the event that a student is enrolled in more than one district or school for equal amounts of time, the student will be assigned to the district and school of final enrollment. The procedures below outline the processes involved in calculating the cohort rates.

Removing Students from the Cohort

Adjustments are made to the full cohort group to account for those students who are deceased or transfer to other educational settings outside of Mississippi's public-school



system including out of the country. These students may be removed from the cohort if the transfer is deemed valid. Districts must maintain appropriate documentation that a student's transfer is valid or legitimate. A valid transfer may include the following:

- Transfer to a Non-Public School
- Transfer to Home School
- Transfer to a School Outside of the State/Country

Students who transfer to a community-based GED program are not considered as valid transfers. Federal guidelines require students transferring to such programs to remain as members of the cohort group *Every Student Succeeds Act, § 8101(25)*.

The resulting list of students, referred to as the adjusted cohort, is used to determine the graduation, completion, still enrolled, and dropout rates. Each of these students will be classified as a graduate, completer, still enrolled student, or dropout for determining rates.

Denominator

The denominator for all cohort rates is the sum of all students who are members of the adjusted cohort for the individual district, school, or state.

Numerator

Graduation Rates Numerator

The sum of students in the adjusted cohort of the individual school or district who received a regular or alternate high school diploma.

Completer Rates Numerator

The sum of students in the adjusted cohort of the individual school or district who received a GED (through the district's alternative education program only), certificate of completion, or have successfully met all of the district's Carnegie unit requirements for graduation except for passing one or more of the end-of-course statewide subject area assessments or meeting an option in lieu of passing the assessment, as outlined in Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.4 and 36.5 and Appendix A-5 of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.



Still Enrolled Rates Numerator

The sum of students in the adjusted cohort of the individual school or district who have enrolled in a Mississippi public school during month one of the fifth school year for the cohort to meet the necessary requirements for earning a regular high school diploma or alternative certificate.

Dropout Rates Numerator

The sum of students in the adjusted cohort of the individual school or district who left school without earning a regular high school diploma/certificate or legitimately transferring out of the cohort.

Rate Calculations

The cohort rate calculations are the numerator divided by the denominator. A rate is calculated for each status group: graduate, completer, still enrolled, and dropout.

Adding the final values for the four rates for a single district/school together will total 100%.

Reporting of Graduation Rates

Following the presentation of graduation rates to the SBE, the district-level data files are made available publicly through the MDE's public reporting website. Each eligible district will have a graduation, completion, still enrolled, and dropout rate reported. The graduation and dropout rates are reported for each of the traditional student subgroups under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). (See listing of subgroups below.) All standard reporting practices of the agency are applied in the data release.

ESEA Student Subgroups:

- All Student Subgroup
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Students with Disabilities
- African American or Black
- Asian



- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American
- Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races
- White
- Male
- Female
- Migrant
- Homeless
- English Learners

Glossary of Terms

Adjusted cohort: The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class. For any given cohort, students who are entering Grade 9 for the first time form a cohort that is subsequently “adjusted” by adding any students who transfer into the cohort later during the next three years and subtracting any students who transfer out, immigrates to another country, or dies during that same period. This is defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 8101(25).

Certificate of Completion: A special certificate awarded to a student who meets all special requirements of the local school board for his exceptionality but is unable to meet the appropriate special state minimum requirements (Miss. Code Ann. §37-16-11 and Appendix A-11 of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*). A Certificate of Completion is not a high school diploma or an Alternate Diploma, but rather an acknowledgement of the student’s participation in and completion of his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Completion Rate: The percentage of students in the adjusted cohort who received a GED (through the district’s alternative education program only), certificate of completion, or have successfully met all of the district’s Carnegie unit requirements for graduation except for passing one or more of the end-of-course subject area assessments or meeting an option in lieu of passing the assessment, as outlined in Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.4 and 36.5 and Appendix A-5 of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.



Dropout Rate: The percentage of students in the adjusted cohort who left school without earning a regular high school diploma/certificate or legitimately transferring out of the cohort.

Full cohort: A group of students that graduate over a four-year period, including both the students who were in Grade 9 at the beginning of the cohort period, as well as other students who enter public schools during the cohort period.

GED: General Education Diploma

Graduate: A student who received a regular high school diploma or alternate diploma from a Mississippi public high school.

Graduation Rate: The percentage of students who received a regular high school diploma or alternate diploma from a Mississippi public high school during the four-year cohort period.

Regular Diploma: A diploma awarded to students who meet all the requirements of Miss. Code Ann. §37-16-7, as outlined in Appendix A of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

Still Enrolled Rate: The percentage of students who have not yet received a diploma or certificate and have enrolled in a Mississippi public school during months one and/or two of the fifth school year for the cohort in order to meet the necessary requirements for earning a regular high school diploma or certificate.

Transfer to Home School: A student who exits public school to receive instruction at home, as validated by a certification from the School Attendance Officer.

Transfer to Non-Public School: A student who transfers from public school to a diploma-based program in a non-public school in Mississippi, as validated by a records request from the non-public school.

Transfer Out-of-State/Country: A student who transfers from a public school in order to attend an out-of-state school, as validated by a records request from the out-of-state school (public or private) or a student who emigrates out of the country.



Resources

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act and related regulations [C.F.R. 200.37]
- Federal Graduation Rates Non-Regulatory Guidance
- Miss. Code Ann. §37-17-6
- Miss. Code Ann. §37-16-11 (Diploma types)
- Miss. Code Ann. §37-16-7 (Dropout Plans)
- Miss. Code Ann. §37-13-80 (Compulsory School Attendance)
- State Board of Education Policies (Chapter 36)
- *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*
- Mississippi State Accountability System Business Rules
- Mississippi Student Information Systems Manual

