Four-Year and Five-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates
2011-2012 Fact Sheet

What is the Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate?

- Federal regulations require states to calculate graduation rates using a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.
- 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 entered high school four years earlier (adjusting for transfers in and out).

What is the Four-Year Graduation Formula?

2011 graduates (# of cohort members earning a regular HS diploma by Sept. 30, 2011)

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first time 9th graders in fall 2007 plus transfers in minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during 2010-2011, 2009-2010, 2008-2009 and 2007-2008

Who is in the Four-Year Cohort?

- First time 9th graders from 2007-2008 are the initial cohort with the expectation that they graduated by September 30, 2011.
- First time 9th graders are determined by End of Year Accountability (EOYA) records submitted through the KIDS system.
- The cohort is adjusted according to students who transfer in, transfer out, emigrate or die

Who is included in the Graduation Rate Calculation?

- Data collected through KIDS system—EXIT and EOYA records—is used in calculations.
- Only students with regular diplomas count as graduates. (This is the numerator.)
- Students who graduate in less than four years are "banked" and included when their four-year adjusted cohort rate is calculated.
- Students who do not graduate in the expected four years are non-graduates and count against the graduation rate.
- Non-graded adult students do not count in the graduation calculation unless their four-year and/or five-year cohort has not graduated.

What is the Five-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate?

- The five-year adjusted cohort rate includes students who do not graduate with their four-year cohort but remain in school and graduate in five years.
- The five-year adjusted cohort rate applies to all students and student groups. It is not specific to any particular group.
- The five-year adjusted cohort rate is based on the 2006-2007 9th graders as the initial cohort. After adjusting for students who transfer in, out, emigrate or die, the number of students who graduated by September 30, 2011 will be included in the five-year rate.

What is the Five-Year Graduation Formula?

2011 graduates (# of cohort members earning a regular HS diploma by Sept. 30, 2011)

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first time 9th graders in fall 2006 plus transfers in minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during 2010-2011, 2009-2010, 2008-2009, 2007-2008 and 2006-2007

How is Graduation Data Reviewed?

- Schools and districts review and signoff on the data through the "Dropout/ Graduation Summary Report" (opens November 2011).

What is the Graduation Rate Goal?

- The graduation rate goal is 80% for both the four-year and five-year cohorts.
- The 2011 graduation goal and targets are pending approval by the US Department of Education.

What are the New Graduation Rate Targets?

If Rate is	Target is
80% or above	**0%** improvement from last year
Less than 50%	**5%** improvement from last year
At or above 50% but less than 80%	**3%** improvement from last year

- The graduation targets are the same for both the four-year and five-year cohorts.

How Many Students are Necessary for Graduation Rate to be Calculated for AYP? (N-Size)

- N-Size = 30 students in the cohort.
- The cohort is the denominator in the graduation rate formula.
- Schools with less than 30 students in the cohort will not have an AYP determination for graduation.

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How is Graduation Rate "Made" for AYP?

- Data is lagged one year—2011 graduation data are used to determine Graduation Rate for 2012 AYP.
- A school or district makes "graduation" AYP if each subgroup with at least 30 students has a graduation rate of 80% or it meets the target.
- If a school/district does not make the four-year adjusted cohort graduation goal or target, then the five-year adjusted cohort will be applied. If it meets the five-year adjusted cohort goal or target, then AYP is met.

Is Graduation Rate Data Disaggregated?

- Yes, graduation rate data is disaggregated and reported on the report cards by the various student groups.
- Yes, graduation rate data is disaggregated for the purposes of determining AYP in 2011-2012.
- The Report Card posted on the KSDE website has graduation rate data in two places:
  1. On the AYP page, the data is displayed for all disaggregated groups with at least 30 students.
  2. On the Graduation page, the data is displayed for all disaggregated groups with at least 10 students. The "N-size" of 30 does not apply. No goals or targets apply to the data on this page.

When is a Student Included in a Student Group?

- Race and ethnicity are based on the EXIT or EOYA record with the latest school entry date. If the EOYA and EXIT have the same school entry date then the EXIT record will be used.
- If a student had free/reduced lunch status, was an English Language Learner, migrant, homeless and/or identified as a student with disabilities at any time throughout high school, he or she will be included in that student group.

Who Does One Contact if there are Questions?

- Information will be posted on KSDE website at http://ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4606
- Contact AYP/QPA Help Desk at 785-296-2261, qpa@ksde.org
- Jessica Noble, 785-296-3163,jnoble@ksde.org
- Judi Miller, 785-296-5081,jmiller@ksde.org