



4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate 2010-2011 Fact Sheet

What is the 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate?

- Federal requirements require states to calculate graduation rates using a “4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate.”
- States are to follow a 9th grade cohort and determine how many graduate in 4 years.
- Kansas is implementing the new formula in 2010-2011. It will be used in determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) for 2011.
- US Department of Education peer reviews and approves each States’ goal, targets and rules used in 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.

Who is in the Cohort?

- 1st time 9th graders from 2006-2007 are the initial cohort with the expectation that they graduated by September 30, 2010.
- The 1st time 9th graders are determined by the 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.

What is the Graduation Rate Formula?

2010 graduates (# of cohort members earning a regular HS diploma by Sept. 30, 2010)

1st time 9th graders in fall 2006 plus transfers in minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during 2009-2010, 2008-2009, 2007-2008 and 2006-2007

Who is included in the Graduation Rate Data?

- Only students with regular diplomas count as graduates. (This is the numerator.)
- Data collected through KIDS system—EXIT and EOYA records—is used in calculations.
- Data is lagged 1 year—2010 graduation data are used to determine Graduation Rate for 2011 AYP.
- Students who graduate in less than 4 years are “banked” and included when their 4-yr. adjusted cohort rate is calculated.
- Students who do not graduate in the expected 4 years are non-graduates which decreases the rate.

How is Graduation Data Reviewed?

- Schools and districts review and signoff on the data through the “Dropout/ Graduation Summary Report” (opens mid-March 2011).

What is the New Graduation Rate Goal?

- Kansas revised its graduation rate goal and targets in 2009-2010.
- New graduation rate goal is 80%. Previously, it was 75%.
- In April, 2010, the US Department of Education conditionally approved these changes for the graduation rate used in calculating Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2010 and 2011.

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 50% but less than 80%	3% improvement from last year

(Previously, the target was any improvement. The new annual targets must be continuous and substantial improvement from prior year toward meeting goal.)

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

- 30 students in the “All Students” category
- Schools with less than 30 students will not have an AYP determination for graduation.

How is Graduation Rate “Made” for AYP?

- A school or district makes “graduation” AYP if its “All Students” group has a graduation rate of 80% or it meets the target.
- If a school does not make the 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate goal or target, then the 5-year adjusted cohort will be applied. If it meets the 5-year adjusted cohort goal (80%), then AYP is met. (See 5-Year Adjusted Cohort.)
- States with extended-year rates are required to also report and use the 4-year adjusted cohort rate in making AYP determinations.

Is Graduation Rate Data Disaggregated?

- Yes, graduation rate data is disaggregated and reported on the report cards by the various student groups.
- No, graduation rate data is not disaggregated for the purposes of determining AYP in 2010-2011; only the “All Students” group is used for AYP. Disaggregated data will be used in AYP determinations beginning in 2011-2012.
- Disaggregated data is only used in AYP when considering whether or not Safe Harbor applies. When a particular group does not meet the performance target in reading or math, safe



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harbor is applied if this group meets the graduation rate (80% or meets new targets).

- The Report Card posted on the KSDE website has graduation rate data in 2 places:
 1. On the AYP page, only the “All Students” group is listed. The other groups have “NA.”
 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 EXIT records of “12th” graders.
- 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.

What is 5-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate?

- States have the option to calculate an extended year graduation rate. The extended rate provides the opportunity to include students who do not graduate with their 4-year cohort but remain in school and graduate in 5 years.
- The 5-year adjusted cohort rate applies to all students and student groups. It is not specific to any particular group.
- The extended-year rate follows the same rules and goal as the 4-year rate; however, the targets must be more aggressive.
- The 5-year adjusted cohort rate is based on the the 2005-2006 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, 2010 will be included in the 5-year rate.

Who does One Contact if there are Questions?

- Information will be posted on KSDE website at www.ksde.org
- Contact AYP/QPA Help Desk at qpa@ksde.org or 785-296-2261
- Jessica Noble, 785-29603163, jnoble@ksde.org
- Judi Miller, 785-296-5081, judim@ksde.org.