

Graduation Rate: Baseline & Targets

Ms. Linda Castellanos, Program Manager Data & GO-IEP
Dr. Dawn Kemp, Part B Data Manager

SPP/APR INDICATOR 1

Indicator 1: Graduation

Percent of youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) exiting from high school with a regular high school diploma. (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A))

Graduation Calculations in Georgia

Adjusted Cohort Calculation ESSA (CCRPI)

SWD (9th-12th) who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma or state defined alternate diploma*

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SWD who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class

618 Data – Annual Event Calculation OSEP (APR)

SWD (age 14-21) who exit special education by graduating with a regular diploma

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SWD (age 14-21) who exit high school by: graduating with a regular diploma, graduating with a state defined alternate diploma, receiving a certificate, **reaching maximum age, or dropping out

*Georgia began the alternate diploma track for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in SY 2020-2021. The first alternate diploma graduates will likely be at the end of the 2023-2024 SY.

**Georgia does not use reaching maximum age.

Graduation Rate Comparison

Adjusted Cohort Calculation ESSA (CCRPI)

- Includes only high school students who exit school
- Students must graduate in 4 years*
- Alternate Diploma counts as "regular" graduate

*except State Defined Alternate Diploma students for whom cohort reassignment is made

Annual Event Calculation OSEP (APR)

- Includes all students ages 14-21 who exit school and were enrolled on July 1st in GA
- Students do not have to graduate in 4 years
- Alternate Diploma does not count as a "regular" diploma

Regular Graduates - OSEP

Regular Graduates are defined as:

- students with disabilities receiving a high school diploma **identical** to that for which students without disabilities are eligible, and
- students with disabilities receiving a diploma that is **fully** aligned to State standards.

Students with disabilities receiving a diploma aligned with alternate standards **cannot** count toward the percentage of students receiving a regular diploma for APR calculation purposes.

Students with disabilities who exited high school with a diploma that did not meet the same standards as students without disabilities are classified as receiving a certificate for APR calculation purposes.

Implications for Georgia

- Beginning with the FY2021 graduates, students with disabilities who did not meet the same graduation requirements as students without disabilities **were not** included as regular graduates in the Annual Event calculation.
- State and LEA rates for graduation for students with disabilities were impacted on the APR reports **only**.
- LEAs with many students who were regular diploma graduates participating in the GAA had a lower graduation rate on the APR.

Implications for Georgia - Continued

- The calculation change resulted in a dramatic decrease in graduation rate.
- The rates were reported in Georgia's Annual Performance Reports in April 2022. Georgia does not report the data as lag data in Georgia. Georgia reported the 2020-2021 data in April 2022.
- However, OSEP requires that the data be reported as lag data in the SPP/APR. As a result, the decrease for the 2020-2021 school year will be reported to OSEP in February 2023.
- Georgia will need to request a reset baseline and new targets.
- Longitudinal data, current baseline and targets, and proposed reset baseline and targets follow.

APR Graduation Rate for SWD

| SCHOOL YEAR | PERCENTAGE | CHANGE |
|-------------|------------|--------|
| 2021 | 69.55 | - 9.80 |
| 2020 | 79.35 | + 5.89 |
| 2019 | 73.46 | + 3.31 |
| 2018 | 70.15 | + 1.27 |

Graduation Rate Targets (lag data) - Current Baseline & Targets

| FFY 2020 SY 19-20 | FFY 2021 SY 20-21 | FFY 2022 SY 21-22 | FFY 2023 SY 22-23 | FFY 2024 SY 23-24 | FFY 2025 SY 24-25 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Reported 2/2022 | 2/2023 | 2/2024 | 2/2025 | 2/2026 | 2/2027 |
| Baseline 73.46% | 74.46% | 75.46% | 76.46% | 77.46% | 78.46% |

Graduation Rate Targets (lag data) - Proposed Baseline & Targets

| FFY 2020 SY 19-20 | FFY 2021 SY 20-21 | FFY 2022 SY 21-22 | FFY 2023 SY 22-23 | FFY 2024 SY 23-24 | FFY 2025 SY 24-25 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Reported 2/2022 | 2/2023 | 2/2024 | 2/2025 | 2/2026 | 2/2027 |
| Baseline 73.46% | Reset Baseline 69.55% | 70.55% | 71.55% | 72.55% | 73.55% |

Contact Information

- Linda Castellanos
Program Manager
Data & Georgia Online IEP (GO-IEP) Unit
404-719-8045
lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us
- Dawn Kemp
Data Manager
Data & Georgia Online IEP (GO-IEP) Unit
678-340-6738
dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us