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# Idaho's Graduation Rate

The Idaho State Department of Education established a new *baseline* graduation rate for the 2013-2014 school year under the new reporting method mandated by the federal government. Under the new calculation, students would be expected to earn a regular high school diploma in four years (i.e. students beginning in 2012-2013 and graduates in 2015-2016).

## Background

In October 2008, the federal government introduced regulations to establish an accurate measure of calculating the high school graduation rate, creating a uniform definition so graduation rates may be compared across states. This uniform definition is based on a four-year cohort, or grouping, of students.

## Definition: Cohort Grad Rate

The number of students who graduate in span of four (4) years with a regular high school diploma, divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier.

## Example of a cohort

With students under the expectation to earn a regular high school diploma in four years, students are placed into their cohort when they first enroll in ninth grade. Students who enter into their cohort in in 2012-2013 would be part of the graduating class in 2015-2016. Federal guidelines to allow for students who have transferred, emigrated, or who have died to be removed from the cohort graduation rate calculation with official documentation.

## How is the New Graduation Rate Calculated

(2015-2016 Four (4) Year Graduates) *DIVIDED BY* (Ninth Graders in 2012-2013 *PLUS* Transfer Students *MINUS* Students who Transferred Out, Emigrated, or Died During the School Years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016)

## 2014-2015 Graduation Rates

As with the 2013-2014 graduation rate, the 2014-2015 graduation rate should not be compared to graduation rates under the prior calculation. Based on the federal calculation, the confirmed graduation rate for the 2014-2015 school year is 78.9% which does not account for the following:

- 5.3% of alternative students who are in school completing credits to graduate
- 1.9% of students who earned a GED or Adult Ed

Only 2.6% of the 2014-2015 graduates were reported as known or possible dropouts, accounting for the remaining non-graduates:

- 5.8% of students were not assigned a specific exit code or withdrawal reason
- 4.3% of students who transferred without official documentation
- 1.2% were due to other reasons such as medical, reached maximum age, or were denied appeals where adequate documentation was not submitted



## Baseline 2013-2014 Graduation Rate

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A new baseline graduation rate was established in 2013-2014 and should not be compared to prior graduation rates. Based on the federal calculation, the confirmed graduation rate for the 2013-2014 school year is 77.3% which does not account for the following:

- 5.7% of alternative students who are in school completing credits to graduate
- 3.6% of students who earned a GED or Adult Ed

Only 2.9% of the 2013-2014 graduates were reported as known or possible dropouts, accounting for the remaining non-graduates:

- 5.7% of students were not assigned a specific exit code or withdrawal reason
- 4.0% of students who transferred without official documentation
- 0.1% were due to other reasons such as medical, reached maximum age, or were denied appeals where adequate documentation was not submitted

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