

2020 ADE Cohort Graduation Rates System (ACGRS) Resources & FAQ

Resources:

Information about graduation rates can be found starting on page 18 of the 2021 Business Rules for Calculating the ESSA School Index using the following link: https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/admin/Files/20201126153456_ESSA_Business_Rules_2020_21_070920.pdf.

The United States Department of Education (USED) graduation rate guidance from January 2017 is available at the following link:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essagraterateguidance.pdf>.

FAQ:

Graduation Rate: Corrections and Documentation	
What are the 3 types of corrections that can be made in the system?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Deleting a student cohort record2. Validating graduation status3. Adding a student into the cohort
Who can be removed from a cohort?	<p>A student that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Transfers to a school outside of Arkansas2. Emigrates to another country3. Enrolls into Homeschool4. Enrolls into Private school5. Dies6. Transfers to a prison or Juvenile facility (that gives a regular diploma)7. Special Corrections (Must have ADE Authorization)8. Duplicate State ID

<p>What is the result of removing a student from the cohort?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing a student from the cohort reduces the number of expected graduates. <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 Actual Graduates/100 Expected Graduates = 95% graduation rate. If two students were removed from the cohort, calculation becomes 95 Actual Graduates divided by 98(minus 2 students) Expected Graduates = 97% graduation rate.
<p>Can the status of students who were in subgroups of FRL, SWD or EL be changed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. Students who were in the following subgroups during part of the cohort time period must remain in the subgroups for graduation rate even though status in the Statewide Information System has changed: Economically Disadvantaged (FRL), Students with Disabilities, English Learners. Carefully verify all information before each of Cycles 2 through 7 are submitted. Demographic information cannot be changed in ACGR corrections. <p><i>A state must count a student in his or her respective subgroup cohort(s) for the ACGR for each subgroup the student was a part of at any time during the cohort period. (34 C.F.R. § 200.34(e)(2)).</i></p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student received free or reduced-price lunch in 9th grade and in the 10th grade the student's family won the lottery. The student will remain in free/reduced status for graduation rate even though meal status in the Statewide Information System has changed.

<p>When should I make a validate graduation status correction?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student is an actual graduate but the student is marked as a non-graduate. <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students that are marked as non-graduate, who actually graduated on-time can be corrected at this point. • 95 Actual Graduates/100 Expected Graduates = 95% graduation rate. • If two students marked as non-graduates are corrected as actual graduates, calculation becomes 97(2 added students)/100 Expected Graduates = 97% graduation rate. <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An official school transcript, with seal and signature, showing the graduation date.
<p>When should a student be added to a cohort?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student should be added if the student is not included in the district's or school's cohort record. • Only a student that was an actual On-Time graduate can be added to a cohort. • An actual graduate may be added when a copy of an official transcript, with seal and signature, showing the graduation date is uploaded into the system. • No other students may be added to the cohort. <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 Actual Graduates/99 Expected Graduates = 95.96% graduation rate • If one student is on-time to graduate, the calculation will be 96 Actual Graduates/100 Expected Graduates = 96% graduation rate

	<p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An official school transcript, with seal and signature, showing the graduation date.
Do I have to submit documentation for all corrections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, USED graduation rate guidance B-11 states before a student is removed from a cohort, a school or LEA must have written confirmation that a student has transferred out of state, enrolled in private or homeschool, emigrated to another country, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or died.
Why is written documentation important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written documentation facilitates audits and, thus, will help ensure that a school, LEA, and State have an accurate measure of graduation rate. • The Bureau of Legislative Research audits approved removals from the cohort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools will be asked for a list of student names and documentation submitted to be removed from the cohort. ○ It is the school's responsibility to maintain good records in the event of this audit.
What documentation is required for students who moved out of state?	<p>Enrolled in a school in another state (SIS withdrawal code = 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-time request for records from receiving school and E-School Entry/Withdrawal page.
What documentation is required for students who emigrated to another country?	<p>Emigrates to another country (SIS withdrawal code = 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-School Entry/Withdrawal page validates that the student is an on-time transfer and a letter on the district's letterhead from the superintendent indicating the student moved to another country.

<p>What documentation is required for a student who enrolls into homeschool?</p>	<p>Enrolled in a homeschool (SIS withdrawal code = 17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home schooled students enrolled under Resident Codes 1, 2, or 4 will be removed from the cohort if student state ID and LEA are accurate for match to enrollment data downloaded from TRIAND. • Copy of the first page of the homeschool waiver form or E-School Entry/Withdrawal page validates that the student is an on-time transfer. • Legal Reference: http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2017/2017R/Acts/Act635.pdf
<p>What documentation is required for a student who enrolls into private school?</p>	<p>Enrolled in a private school (SIS withdrawal code = 16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-School Entry/Withdrawal page validates that the student is an on-time transfer and on-time request for records from receiving school <p>Special Education services in the private school. (USED graduation rate guidance B-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student with a disability is placed in a private school by an LEA in order to meet the student’s special education and related services needs under the IDEA, the LEA remains responsible for ensuring that the student receives a free appropriate public education while placed in the private school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (34 C.F.R. § 300.146) In this situation, the student may not be considered a transfer out.
<p>What if a student has multiple state IDs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that a student has multiple IDs due to enrollment errors and or merging of state IDs, a request should be made to delete the second student record in the ACGRS. • The district should provide the two state IDs in the comment section of the ACGRS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proper documentation should be a copy of the student's initial TRIAND record and the new and or merged TRIAND record.
<p>What documentation is required for students who are deceased?</p>	<p>Dies during that same period (SIS withdrawal code = 3) (USED graduation rate guidance B-14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A school or LEA must have written confirmation that a student is deceased before removing the student from the cohort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An obituary from the newspaper, from the program from the service, or from the funeral home website.
<p>What documentation is required for students who went to prison or juvenile facility?</p>	<p>Beginning in 2018, students who transfer to a prison or juvenile facility (SIS withdrawal code = 2);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the USED graduation rate guidance tells that a student can be removed from the graduation rate in B-9, Arkansas Correctional Facilities do not offer students a regular high school diploma. ESSA law states that students can only be transfers if they enter an educational program that offers a regular high school diploma. The Division of Youth Services will offer a diploma only if the public school will not. <p><i>B-9. May a school or LEA consider a student to be a transfer if the student leaves a public high school to enter a prison or juvenile facility?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A student who leaves high school to enter a prison or juvenile facility may be considered a transfer only after an adjudication of delinquency and if the student is in a prison or juvenile facility that has a school (as defined under State law) or provides an educational program from which the student is expected to receive a regular high school diploma or State-defined alternate diploma that meets the requirements described in question A-16 during the period in which the student is assigned to the prison or juvenile facility.</i>

- *If the facility does not have a school or educational program, or provides an educational program that does not offer a regular high school diploma or State-defined alternate diploma that meets the requirements described in question A16, the student may not be considered a transfer, may not be removed from the cohort, and must remain in the denominator of the graduation rate calculation for the school, LEA, and State in which the student last attended high school.*
- *Further, if a student is not expected to be in a facility for sufficient duration to receive a regular high school diploma or State-defined alternate diploma that meets the requirements described in question A-16 (i.e., if the student will leave the facility prior to his or her high school graduation and therefore is expected to return to the student's sending high school or another high school), the student may not be removed from the cohort of the sending school. (34 C.F.R § 200.34(b)(3)(iii)).*

The Arkansas Department of Corrections only offers a GED. A GED is not a regular high school diploma.

- *GED classes are offered at all units and the Board of Correction mandates attendance for all inmates without a GED or high school diploma unless they are unable to participate due to health reasons. Arkansas is transitioning to computer-based testing (CBT) for the GED test. The Correctional Education Association (CEA) accredits schools at the (11) units large enough to have a principal.*

<http://adc.arkansas.gov/inmate-programs-pg-3>

The Division of Youth Services

- *The goal of DYS education is to "mesh" not "match" with the public school system in Arkansas. By offering courses in the core subject areas that meet state standards and graduation requirements we offer a consistent opportunity for all of our students to make adequate progress toward graduation. This is primary, due to the short length of stay for most students. Guidance services are in place to properly identify students for grade placement and to advise each student concerning progress toward graduation.*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The major compliance issues related to DYS education are found in the DOJ settlement agreement and ADE compliance monitoring report. The most challenging item listed in the DOJ settlement agreement was the granting of diplomas. However, HB 1932 of 2009 addressed that issue. Youths can request a diploma from the school system they were enrolled in prior to placement in DYS. <u>If that system does not issue a diploma, DYS has the authority to provide one.</u></i> <p style="text-align: center;">http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dys/oversight/education-system</p>
<p>Can I delete a student that is getting a GED?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, a GED is not recognized as an official high school diploma.
<p>Does Arkansas Youth Challenge offer a traditional high school diploma?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arkansas Youth Challenge does not offer a traditional High School Diploma. Arkansas Youth Challenge offers a GED upon completion of the program. • Students that attend Youth Challenge can earn credits that can count towards a traditional High School diploma if they choose to transfer to another Arkansas school.

Special Corrections

What if my student is in the wrong cohort?

- A Secure File Link that allows the district to securely provide information will be sent to a district upon request.

What if my student was assigned to the wrong LEA?

- A Secure File Link that allows the district to securely provide information will be sent to a district upon request.
- The state ID number and both LEAs (original and corrected) are to be submitted through the DESE Secure File Share system.

What about Pre-registered No Shows?

- If a student has been on the roll for at least 10 days, the student will be considered as a drop-out.
- Student should be dropped before October 1 (Cycle 2)

Graduation Rate Questions

If a student graduates early how are they "banked" in the cohort?

- Early graduates should be properly coded as early graduates and counted in the cohort that is the students' first on-time Grade 9 (schools with Grades 9- 12), first on-time Grade 10 (schools with Grades 10-12), or first on-time Grade 11 (schools with Grades 11-12).
- Early graduates are not counted in the year they graduate as they are not part of that particular adjusted cohort.
- Schools should make sure the student is in the Cycle 9 Graduates Table in the year the student's cohort graduates.

<p>Does a student count toward the 4 year cohort or the 5th year cohort if the student graduates <u>after</u> August 15?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will be a non-graduate in the four-year graduation rate and will become part of the school's and district's 5th year cohort in the following year.
<p>When is the last day a student can count for a 4 year cohort?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arkansas has a summer lag, which allows students to graduate by August 15.
<p>If a student went to Job Corps, does that count as an actual graduate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student that graduated from Job Corps does not count as an actual graduate for the school or district.
<p>What if my 9th graders are in my middle school?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If 9th graders are in the middle school, these students will move into a 3 year adjusted cohort. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If a 9th grade student is in the middle school and moves into a 10-12 high school that student enters the 10-12 school cohort in the 10th grade. ◦ In this case a student is expected to graduate in 3 years not 4 years.

<p>Where do my 9th graders who are in the middle school count since they are not in a traditional cohort?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th graders who are in a middle school and moving into a 10-12 cohort count toward the district rate. • All districts have a rate that calculates students who are in grades 9th-12th. • Districts with this type of configuration will have a district graduation rate that is different from their high school rate.
<p>Will my middle school with a 9th grade have a graduation rate and can correct the rate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle schools with a 9th grade will not have a graduation rate. • Schools will see students who are in middle schools on their graduation rate list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ These students can be corrected in the graduation rate cohort system with proper documentation.
<p>Why is my graduation rate a year behind?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Graduation rate is a year behind because of the Summer Lag of August 15. • The data is collected at the end of cycle 9 and disaggregated. • Schools are given one last opportunity to review and make corrections to certified data.
<p>How does the graduation rate impact my state and federal accountability?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Federal accountability look at graduation rates in schools as a whole and at student sub-populations. Arkansas will begin providing high schools having a graduation rate less than 66.667 percent with comprehensive support and improvement in the 2018-2019 school year. • Under our state accountability system, graduation rate is one of the ESSA Index Indicators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The 4-year graduation rate counts toward 10% of the Index for High Schools. ◦ The 5-year graduation rate counts Toward 5% of the index for High Schools.

How is an adjusted cohort defined	Grade Span	Grade Ranges											
	PK-5	P-K	P-1	P-2	P-3	P-4	P-5	P-6	K-K	K-1	K-2	K-3	K-4
		K-5	K-6	K-7	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	1-7	2-3	2-4	2-5
		2-6	2-7	3-3	3-4	3-5	3-6	3-7	4-4	4-5	4-6	5-5	
6-8	P-8	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11	1-8	2-8	3-8	4-7	4-8	5-6	5-7	
	5-8	6-6	6-7	6-8	7-8	7-9	8-8						
9-12	8-9	9-9	K-12	5-12	6-12	7-12	8-12	9-12	10-12	11-12			
<p>This chart shows the possible grade configurations in the state.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 8-9, 9-9, reflect schools that will not have a school graduation rate. These students will be used to calculate the district rate. These schools will have students in the cohort correction systems. Grades 10-12 is considered to be a 3-year adjusted cohort. Students will start counting toward graduation rates in the 10th grade. Grades 11-12 is considered to be a 2-year adjusted cohort. Students will start counting toward graduation rates in the 11th grade. 													
When is the correction window open for graduation rate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The window will open around November 1 each calendar year. Always check ADE Commissioner's Memos for deadline dates. http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ 												