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# The Results Are In! Let's Look at the FFY 2020 SPP/APR Graduation and Dropout Performance

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# Participant Outcomes

- Participants will gain knowledge about the new calculations for **Indicator 1. Graduation** and **Indicator 2. Dropout**
- Participants will learn about the results of the SPP/APR analyses for Indicators 1 and 2
- Participants will gain insight on the significance of Indicators 1 and 2 from experiences other states have had in calculating, reporting, and sharing results with their stakeholder groups



# Agenda

- Definition and measurement of **Indicator 1. Graduation**
- States' overall performance on Indicator 1
- Definition and measurement of **Indicator 2. Dropout**
- States' overall performance on Indicator 2
- Upcoming changes to Indicator 2 in the FFY 2021 SPP/APR
- Factors that impact graduation and dropout rates
- Changes to messaging for Indicators 1 and 2 to stakeholder groups
- Experiences with Indicators 1 and 2 in the FFY 2020 SPP/APR



# Indicator 1: Graduation

**Definition:** Percent of youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), ages 14–21 exiting special education due to graduating with a regular high school diploma.

(20 U.S.C. 1418 (a)(iv))

Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) Part B Indicator Measurement Table: For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY 2021) Submission



# Measurement of Indicator 1 for *FFY 2020*

States reported a *leaver/exiter* Graduation rate using the Section 618 Exiting data (*FS009 Submission*) from the previous school year (*lag year data*). The calculation is the number of students who graduated with a ***regular high school diploma*** divided by the number of students who exited special education for all reason.\*

*\*Excluding exiters who transferred to regular education; moved, known to be continuing; or died.*



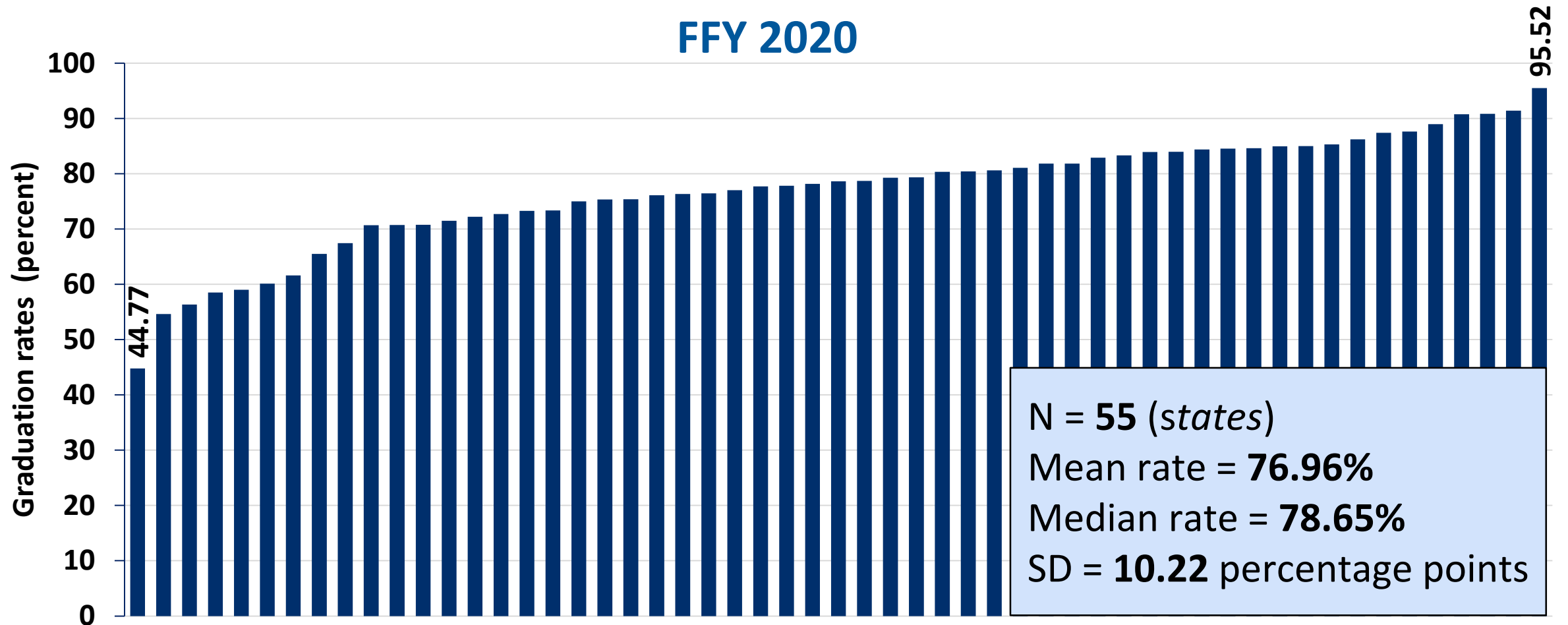
# Performance on Indicator 1 in *FFY 2020*

- The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative (***NTACT:C***) received Indicator 1 data from 55 states
- Data were suppressed for five (5) states
- Data for Indicator 1:
  - *Range* of graduation rates was from **44.77%** to **95.52%**
  - *Mean* rate was **76.96%**
  - *Median* rate was **78.65%**
  - *Standard deviation (SD)* was **10.22** percentage points



# Exiter Graduation Rates

FFY 2020





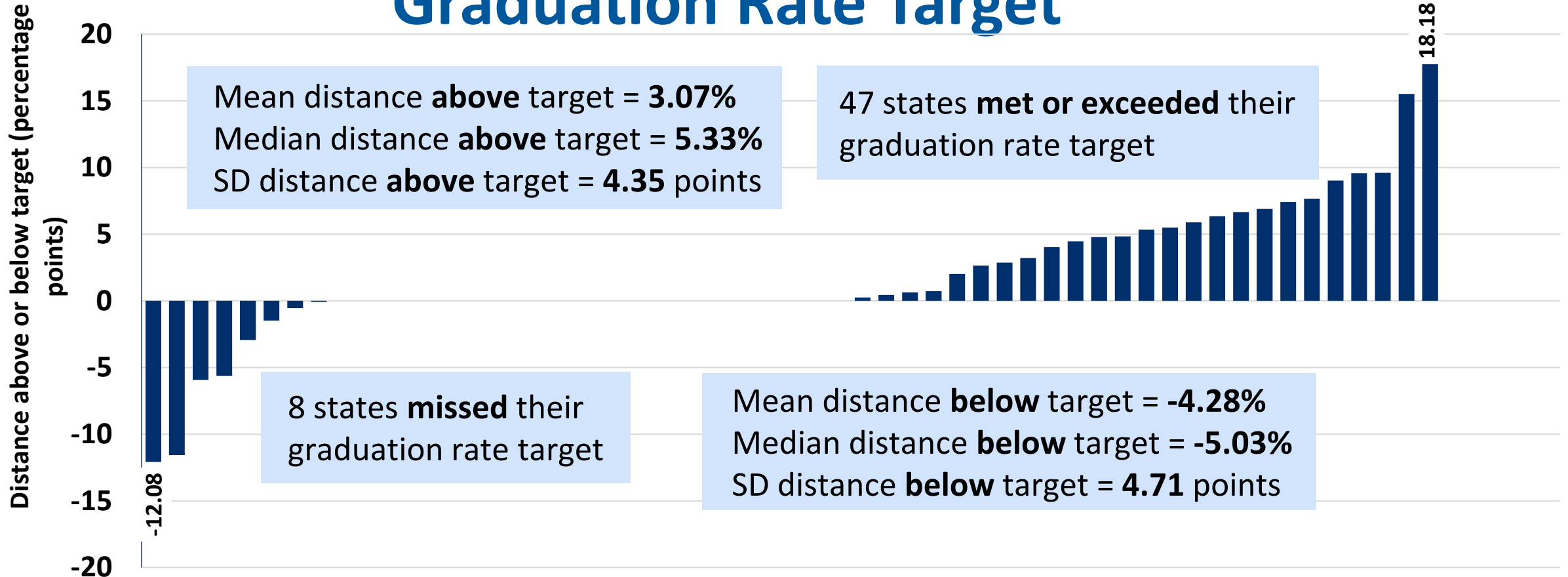
# Graduation Targets in FFY 2020

- **Targets** for Indicator 1 ranged between **30.00%** and **95.00%**
  - Mean target was **73.95%**
  - Median target was **76.06%**
  - SD of targets was **12.54** percentage points
- **Performance** of 47 states met or exceeded ***Targets*** for Indicator 1
  - Mean above the target was **3.07** percentage points
  - Median above the target was **5.33** percentage points
  - SD was **4.35** percentage points



# States' Distance From Their FFY 2020

## Graduation Rate Target





## Indicator 2: Dropout

**Definition:** Percent of youth with IEPs, ages 14–21 who exited special education due to dropping out.

(20 U.S.C. 1418 (a)(iv))

Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) Part B Indicator Measurement Table: For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY 2021) Submission



# Measurement of Indicator 2 for FFY 2020:

## *(The Final Year With Two Options for Indicator 2)*



**Option 1: 50 states** reported a leaver/exiter rate using Section 618 Exiting data (*the percentage of youth with IEPs [ages 14–21] who exited special education due to dropping out in the numerator and the number of all youth with IEPs [ages 14–21] who exited\* in the denominator*).

**Option 2: Five (5) states** reported an event rate using the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Common Core of Data (*percent of students with disabilities who dropped out divided by the total enrollment in grades 9–12*).

*\* Excluding exiters who transferred to regular education; moved, known to be continuing; or died.*



# Option 1: Leaver/Exiter Dropout Rate for Students With Disabilities (SWDs)

Number of  
SWDs  
dropping out

3,437

Number of  
SWDs  
receiving  
regular HS  
diplomas

9,100

+

Number of  
SWDs  
receiving  
alternate  
diplomas

413

+

Number of  
SWDs  
reaching  
maximum  
age

0

+

Number of  
SWDs  
receiving  
certificates

611

+

Number of  
SWDs  
dropping  
out

3,437

=

13,561

Dropout calculation:  $(3,437 / 13,561) \times 100 = 25.34\%$



# Option 2: Annual Event Dropout Rate for *Students with Disabilities*



**Number of SWDs  
dropping out**

**3,437**

**Number of SWDs  
enrolled in grades 9–12**

**67,679**

**Dropout calculation:  $(3,437 / 67,679) \times 100 =$   
**5.08%****



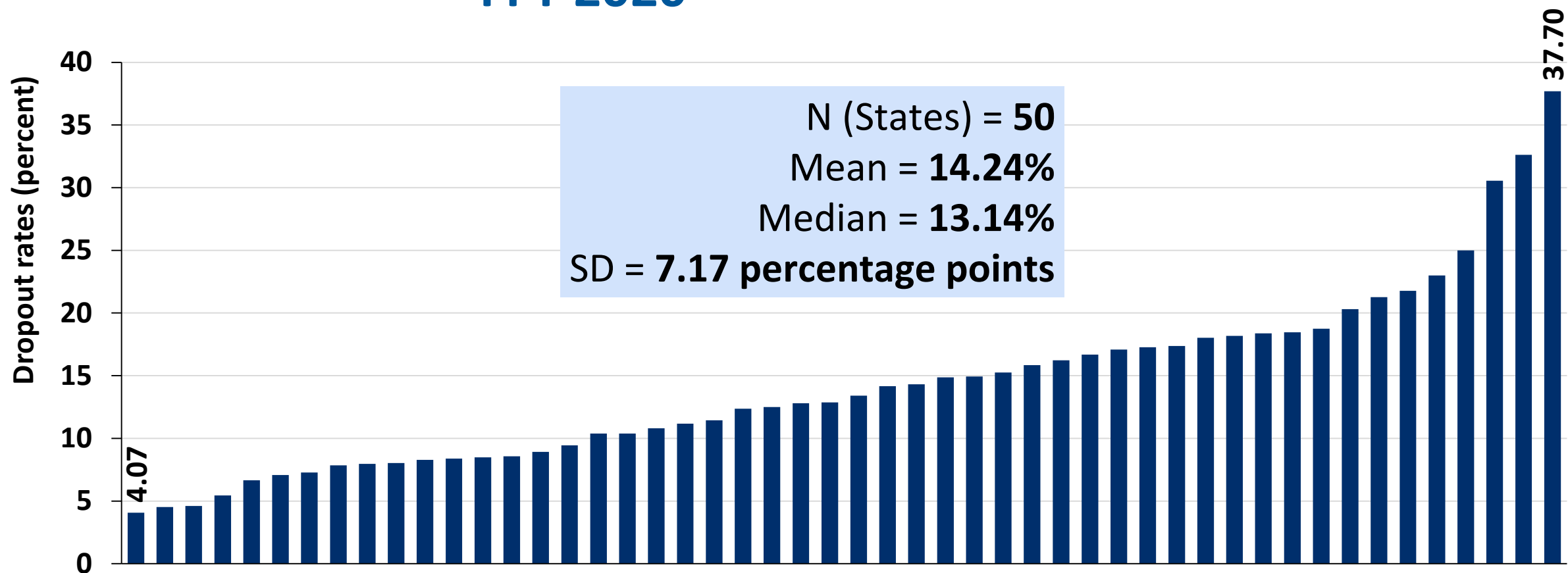
# States' Performance on Indicator 2 in FFY 2020

- NTACT:C received Indicator 2 data for 55 states/entities
  - 50 states/entities selected Option 1
  - 5 states/entities selected Option 2
  - 5 states/entities had their data suppressed (same five states as suppressed for Indicator 1)
- **Option 1: Mean 14.24%, Median 13.14%, SD 7.17**
- **Option 2: Mean 7.01%, Median 3.06%, SD 9.39**



# Exiter Dropout Rates (Option 1)

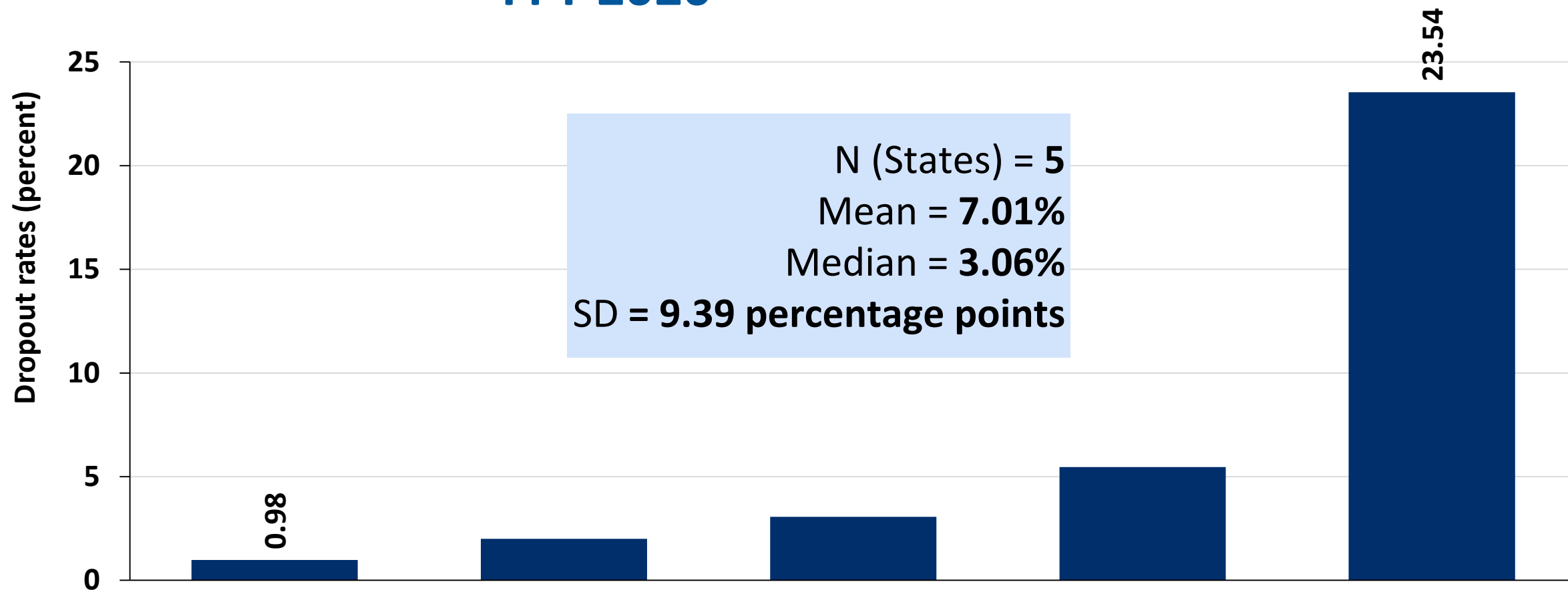
## FFY 2020





# Event Dropout Rates (Option 2)

## FFY 2020



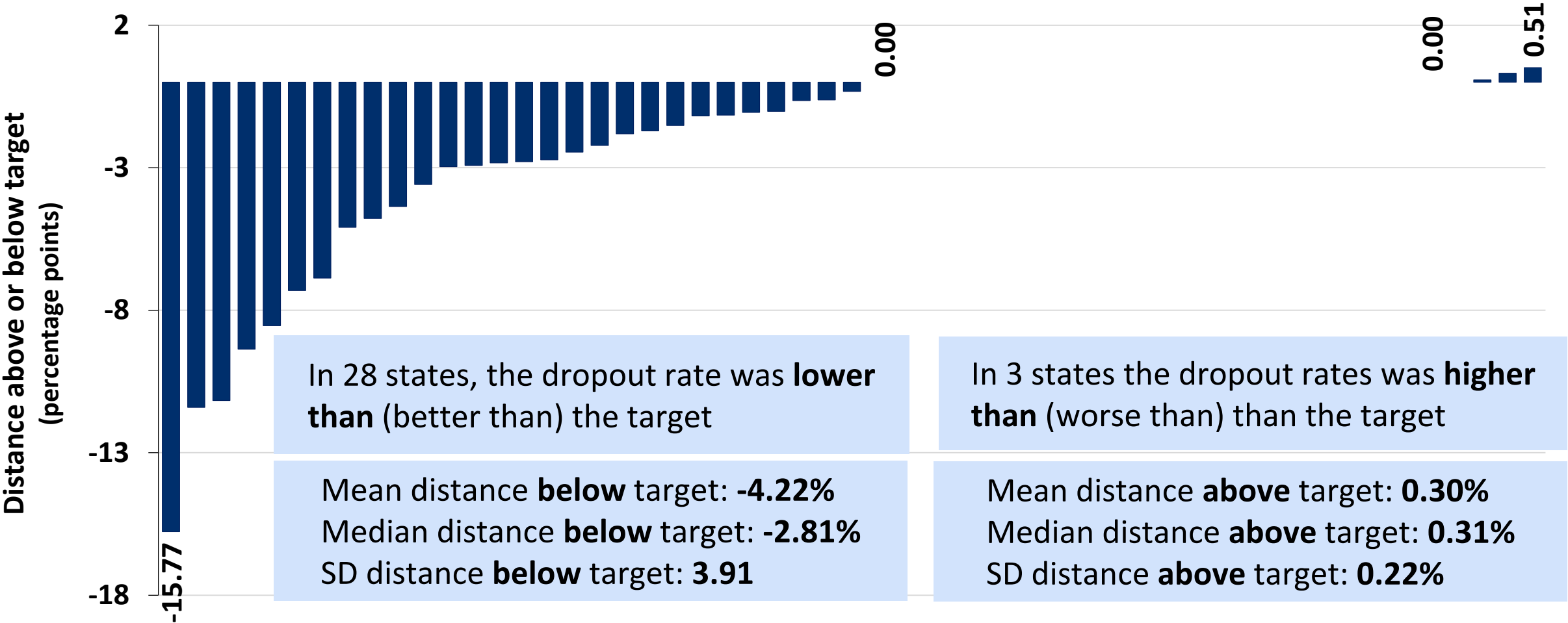


# Dropout Targets in FFY 2020

- Targets ranged between **0.00%** and **42.00%**
  - Mean target was **16.08%**
  - Median target was **14.25%**
  - SD of targets was **9.07** percentage points
- 28 states met or exceeded their dropout rate target
  - Mean distance below the target was **12.78** percentage points
  - Median distance below the target was **11.41** percentage points
  - SD of distance below target was **4.35** percentage points



# Distance From FFY 2020 Dropout Target





**Beginning with the FFY 2021 SPP/APR**  
*(the 2023 SPP/APR submission)*  
**all states must calculate**  
**dropout rates using Option 1,**  
**a leaver/exiter rate formula,**  
**using Section 618 (FS009) Exiting data**  
*(Option 2 will no longer be available)*



# Explaining the Difference Between Rates

How to explain the increase in dropout rate to stakeholders

- The same number of students with disabilities **dropped out**
- The difference is in the size of the **denominator** in the two calculations

Leaver/exiter rate  
**ALL SWD exiters**

versus

Annual event rate  
**ALL SWD enrolled**

*In the example on Slides 12 and 13, the **total number of dropouts is the same** (3,437), while the denominator is substantially different (13,561 in Option 1 versus 67,679 in Option 2).*



# Implications of the New Calculations

- Dropout rates are ***likely*** to increase when adopting this calculation
- States set new graduation and dropout targets in FFY 2020
- As states adopt(ed) the calculation, new baselines were set
- States will have to explain changes to state education agency (SEA), local education agency (LEA), and school staff as well as stakeholder groups, including parents and the voting public
- States should be ***proactive*** about this messaging



# Factors That Affect Graduation and Dropout Rates

- The COVID-19 pandemic
  - Lost school time for everyone
  - Lost students—finding and reengaging/recovering them
  - Student disengagement
  - Recovering from the academic and social loss
  - Loss of school staff
- The economy
- Increased use of remote learning strategies

***What else has affected your state's Graduation and Dropout Rates?***



# Messaging the Changes to Indicators 1 and 2 to Your Stakeholder Groups

- The same number of students drop out, but the calculation methodologies yield different percentages due to differences in the denominator
- Show the calculations and discuss the differences in the denominator—discuss dilution

***How else have you messaged this in your state?***



**What was your experience in calculating and reporting on graduation and dropout rates for FFY 2020?**

**Do you anticipate any concerns about your graduation and dropout data after submission of your FFY 2021 SPP/APR?**



1. OSEP – [Part B State Performance Plan \(SPP\) and Annual Performance Report \(APR\) Part B Indicator Measurement Table: For Federal Fiscal Year \(FFY 2021\)](#), due February 2023
2. IDC/NTACT:C – [Graduation Rate \(Indicator 1\) and Dropout Rate \(Indicator 2\) Calculator](#)
3. NTACT:C – [Locating and Re-Engaging Secondary Students with Disabilities](#)  
(Must login to access—Option to create an account is available on the linked page)
4. [Other SPP/APR information for the coming APR submission](#)
5. For more information on the data in this presentation, see [State Performance Plans \(SPP\) Letters and Annual Performance Report \(APR\) Letters](#) page of the IDEA website



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