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

N = 55 (states)
Mean rate = 76.96%
Median rate = 78.65%
SD = 10.22 percentage points
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

Mean distance above target = 3.07%
Median distance above target = 5.33%
SD distance above target = 4.35 points

47 states met or exceeded their graduation rate target

Mean distance below target = -4.28%
Median distance below target = -5.03%
SD distance below target = 4.71 points

8 states missed their 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

Dropout calculation: $(\frac{3,437}{13,561}) \times 100 = 25.34\%$
Option 2: Annual Event Dropout Rate for Students with Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of SWDs dropping out</th>
<th>Number of SWDs enrolled in grades 9–12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,437</td>
<td>67,679</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Event Dropout Rates (Option 2)

FFY 2020

N (States) = 5
Mean = 7.01%
Median = 3.06%
SD = 9.39 percentage points
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

In 28 states, the dropout rate was lower than the target.

Mean distance below target: -4.22%
Median distance below target: -2.81%
SD distance below target: 3.91

In 3 states the dropout rate was higher than the target.

Mean distance above target: 0.30%
Median distance above target: 0.31%
SD distance above target: 0.22%
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?
**Resources**

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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