



High School Completion Status

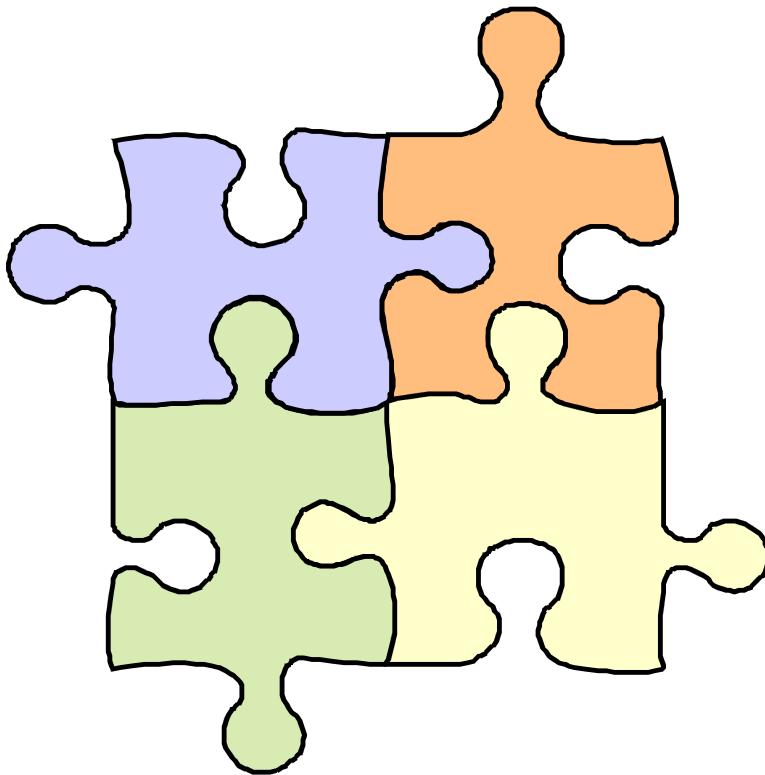
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www.schools.utah.gov/finance/statistics

Utah State Office of Education

Taxonomy for Local Use



- Emerging Standard
 - Still enrolled
 - Transferred
 - Dropped out
 - Completed
 - Eligible to return
 - Neither completed nor dropped out
- Student Accounting Rule



Still Enrolled in District

- Same school (**blank**)
- Different school (**TD**)
- Not assigned to particular school (**na**)



Transferred

- Another district in same state (**TS, TR**)
- Nonpublic school in the same state (**TP, TH**)
- Another state or outside the United States (**TO, TC**)



Dropped Out

- Withdrew for personal or academic reasons (**DO**)
- Exceeded age requirements (Reg: **DO**; SpEd: **D > CT**)
- Removed for reason other than health (**DO**)
- Enrolled in adult education or other program to obtain GED (**DO**) or enlisted in military (**DO**)
- Status is unknown (**DO**)



Completed

- Met all requirements for high school diploma (**GR, G1, G2, G3**)
- Completed approved program but did not meet all requirements for diploma (**na**)
- Received certificate or achievement or attendance (**CT**)
- Completed a vocational program and earned a certificated recognized by state or district (**na**)
- Passed an equivalency exam (**GE**)



Eligible to Return

- Disciplinary reasons (**EX, SU**)
- Long term medical condition or drug treatment of rehabilitative center (**WD**)
- Foreign exchange program (**FE**)
- Early admission college program (**na**)
- Under age for compulsory attendance (**na**)



Neither Completed nor Dropped Out

- Died (**DE**) or permanently incapacitated (**WD**)
- Returned after receiving completion credential and subsequently exited (**na**)

New R277-419-5

High School Completion Status

- A. LEAs shall use the following decision rules and associated codes in the Data Clearinghouse to indicate the high school completion or exit status of each student who leaves the Utah public education system:
- (1) dropped out (DO), when no other status code legitimately represents the reason for departure or absence from school;
 - (2) died (DE);
 - (3) expelled (EX);
 - (4) graduated with a high school diploma, (G*) by satisfying one of the options specified in R277-705-4B;

New R277-419-5 (cont.)

High School Completion Status

- (5) received a certificate of completion (CT):
 - (a) to qualify for a certificate, a student shall be in membership in twelfth grade on the last day of the school year; and
 - (b) meet any additional criteria established by the LEA consistent with its authority under R277-705-4C;
- (6) suspended (SU);
- (7) transferred out of state (TO);
- (8) transferred out of the country (TC);
- (9) transferred to a private school (TP);
- (10) transferred to home schooling (TH);

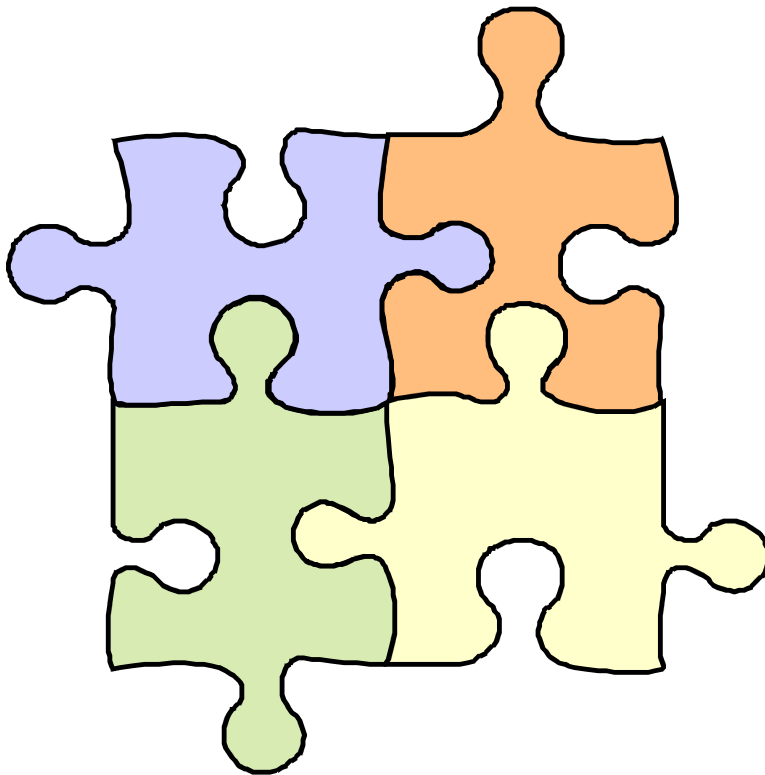
New R277-419-5 (cont.)

High School Completion Status

- (11)
 - (a) U.S. citizen who enrolled in another country as a foreign exchange student (FE);
 - (b) non-U.S. citizen who enrolled in a Utah public school as a foreign exchange student under Section 53A-2-206(2)(i)(B) shall be identified by resident status (F), not by an exit code;
 - (12) withdrawn (WD) due to a situation so serious that educational services cannot be continued even under the conditions of R277-419-4(A)(1)(f)(ii).
- B. LEAs shall report the high school completion status or exit code of each student to the USOE as specified in Data Clearinghouse documentation.



Business Rules for State Use



- Data Collection Process
- Year End Rules
- October Rules



Data Collection Process

- Local Education Agency (SIS) >
- Data Clearinghouse (text file) >
 - one record for each student-school enrollment combination
- Data Warehouse (database) >
- Student Enrollment (table) >
- Status Determination Business Rules (program) >
- Student Master (table) >
 - one record for each student ever enrolled in Utah public school
- High School Completion Status (field)
 - unique determination of the final status of the student



Year End Rules (1)

- If student has single enrollment:
 - Set status equal to high school completion status in Year End Clearinghouse
- If high school completion status is blank:
 - Set status equal to exit code only if exit code indicates student has left the state system and not just moved to a different place within the system
- Otherwise, student is still enrolled, so:
 - Leave status blank



Year End Rules (2)

- If student has more than one enrollment, apply rules in (1) to school with:
 - latest exit date
 - latest entry date
 - highest grade level
 - largest aggregate membership
- If none of tie breakers distinguishes one enrollment from rest, set:
 - status to “undecidable at year end”



October Rules (1)

- If single S1 match occurs, set:
 - equal to exit code
- If multiple S1 matches occur within single district, set:
 - equal to exit code in school of record



October Rules (2)

- If multiple S1 matches occur across multiple districts:
 - apply tie breaker
- If none of tie breakers distinguishes one school from rest, set:
 - status equal to “undecidable due to multiple October S1 records”



October Rules (3)

- If single ES match occurs, set:
 - status equal to updated exit status code
- If multiple ES matches occur, set:
 - status equal to “undecidable due to multiple ES records”

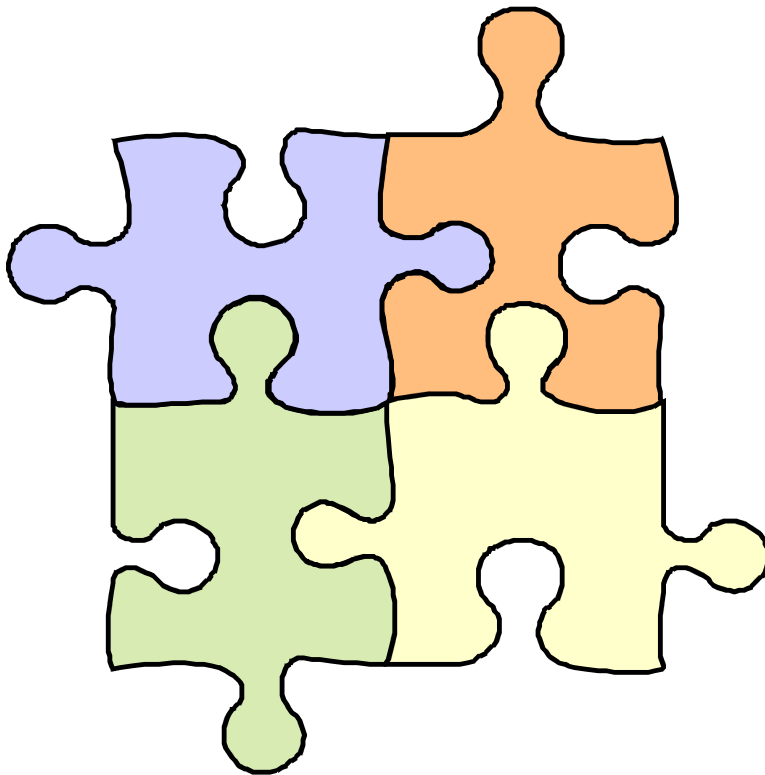


Transformation Rules

- If there is no S1 or ES record in October and at prior year end (July) the student was:
 - Retained senior
 - dropout
 - Expelled or suspended
 - dropout
 - Reached maximum age in special education or graduation pending
 - certificate of completion



Graduation Rates



- Types of Rates
- Definitions of Cohorts
- Cohort Formulas
- NCLB Requirements
- Crucial Questions
- Utah's Response



Types of Rates

- **STATUS** — How many high school graduates are there as a percentage of the population at this point in time? (Census, NCES)
- **EVENT** — How many students dropped out as a percentage of students who were enrolled during this period? (NCES)
- **COHORT** — How many students, of those who started high school together, graduated by the time they were expected to?



Common Status Rates

- Census Bureau / Current Population Survey
 - Numerator
 - Graduates_{age18-24,y}
 - Denominator
 - Population_{age18-24,y}
- NCES / Digest of Education Statistics
 - Numerator
 - Graduates_{age17,y}
 - Denominator
 - Population_{age17,y}



NCES Event Dropout Rate

- Numerator
 - Dropouts_y
- Denominator
 - Enrollment_{BeginningY}
- Issues
 - Does not explicitly account for transfers in and out during the school year
 - Assumes that transfers cancel each other so net change in beginning enrollment is zero



Cohort Definitions

- **SYNTHETIC** — Different students from different populations in different grades in same year
- **SIMULATED** — Sampled students from same population in same grade in different years
- **PANEL** — Same students in different grades in different years



Specific Cohort Formulas

- National Center for Education Statistics
 - Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate
 - Synthetic method
- National Institute of Statistical Sciences
 - Exclusion-Adjusted Cohort Graduation Indicator
 - Simulation method
 - Does not directly use dropout data
 - For all practical purposes, same as National Governors Association recommendation



NCES / Averaged Freshman

- Numerator

- Graduates_{grade12}

- Denominator

- Enrollment_{grade8,y-4} + Enrollment_{grade9,y-3} + Enrollment_{grade10,y-2}



NISS / Exclusion Adjusted

- Numerator
 - $\text{Enrolled}_{C,\text{graduates}} + \text{TransferredIn}_{C,\text{graduates}}$
- Denominator
 - $(\text{Enrolled}_C + \text{TransferredIn}_{C,\text{graduates}}) - (\text{TransferredOut}_C + \text{Excluded}_C)$



NCLB Requirements

- Use of a graduation rate as the “other academic indicator” in determining the AYP of high schools
- Defines the graduation rate for this purpose as “the percentage of students, measured from the beginning of high school [presumably 9th grade], who graduate from high school with a regular diploma ... in the standard number of years”
- Moreover, the “State shall ensure that ... indicators are valid ... and consistent with relevant nationally recognized technical standards”



Crucial Questions

- What is the beginning of high school?
 - When the unit of analysis is the school, entry into cohort is set at 10th to ensure comparability across high schools, half of which have only 10-12
- What is a regular diploma?
 - R277-705-4(B) gives rules for awarding diplomas
- What is the standard number of years?
 - Through age 17 for regular students, 21 for special education; as students are retained each year, the cohort to which they belong is incremented by one



NCLB/AYP Approved Formula

- Through Class of 2006 — Simulated
 - $\text{Graduates}_{\text{grade12},y} /$
 - $\text{Graduates}_{\text{grade12},y} + \text{Dropouts}_{\text{grade12},y} + \text{Dropouts}_{\text{grade11},y-1} + \text{Dropouts}_{\text{grade10},y-2}$
- Beginning with Class of 2007 — Panel
 - $\text{Graduates}_{\text{COHORT}} /$
 - $\text{Graduates}_{\text{COHORT}} + \text{Dropouts}_{\text{COHORT}}$



Query (pseudo SQL)

- **SELECT ***
- **FROM student_master**
- **WHERE expected_graduation = 2007**
- **AND completion_status IN (GR,G1,G2,G3,DO)**



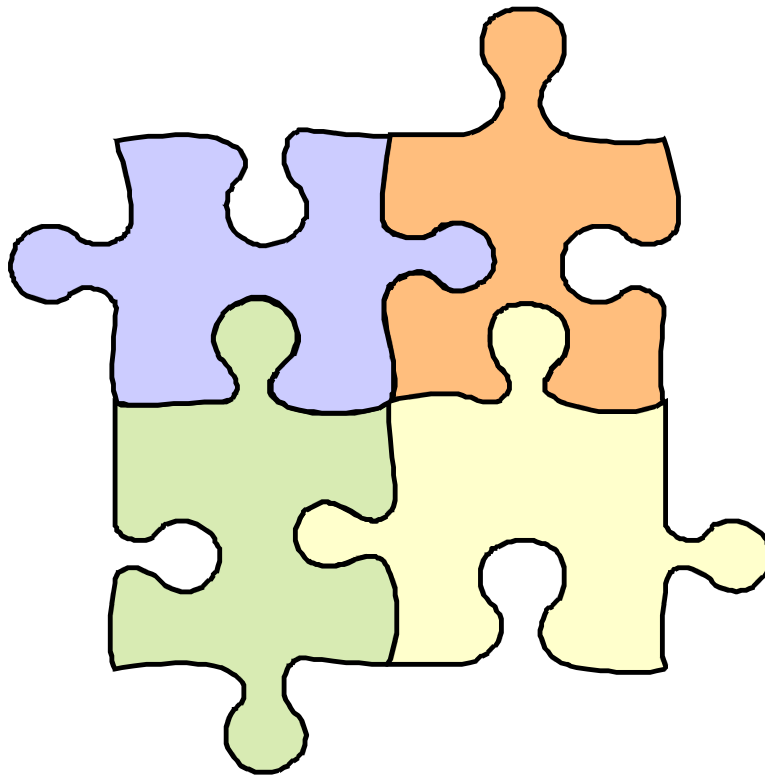
Computation (pseudo Excel)

Graduation Rate

- = $SUM(GR, G1, G2, G3)$
- / $SUM(GR, G1, G2, G3, DO)$



Transfer Student Audit



- Legal Compliance Audit Guide
- Transfer Student List
- Standards of Evidence

Legal Compliance Audit Guide

APP-C5

- Agreed upon procedures
- Published annually by State Auditors Office
 - with input from USOE
 - based on Audit Committee recommendations, including
 - SAO
 - UASBO
 - Accounting Firms
 - Chaired by Emily Eyre



Transfer Student List

- From previous Year End (July) Clearinghouse
- Used by auditor as sampling frame
- Organized by school, contains students who were:
 - enrolled in grades 7 through 12; but
 - not enrolled on the last day of the school year; and
 - not classified by the district as either high school completers or dropouts.

Transfer to Another School

TD, TO, TP, TS

- Official request for the student's records by the receiving school as evidenced in a formal written communication from the school; **or**
- Entry in a log systematically maintained for the purpose showing:
 - **either** the name of the student, the name of the person and the name and address of the school making the request, and the date the request was made;
 - **or** especially in cases where the parent requests the student's record at the time of exiting, an effort by the school to confirm the reenrollment of the student in another school.

Transfer Out of United States



TC

- Statement by a member of the community who has personal knowledge that the student has moved to another country

Transfer to Home Schooling



TH

- Certificate exempting the student from public school attendance for the purpose of home schooling in accordance with Utah Code 53-11-102.

Death

DE

- Copy of the death certificate; **or**
- Obituary as published in a commercial newspaper

Withdrawal

WD — Formal

- Evidence based on a source external to the school explaining the student's situation and justifying withdrawal without continuing provision of educational services in accordance with R277-419-4(C) [through 2007; R277-419-4(A)(1)(f)(ii), beginning with 2008] as a reasonable response.

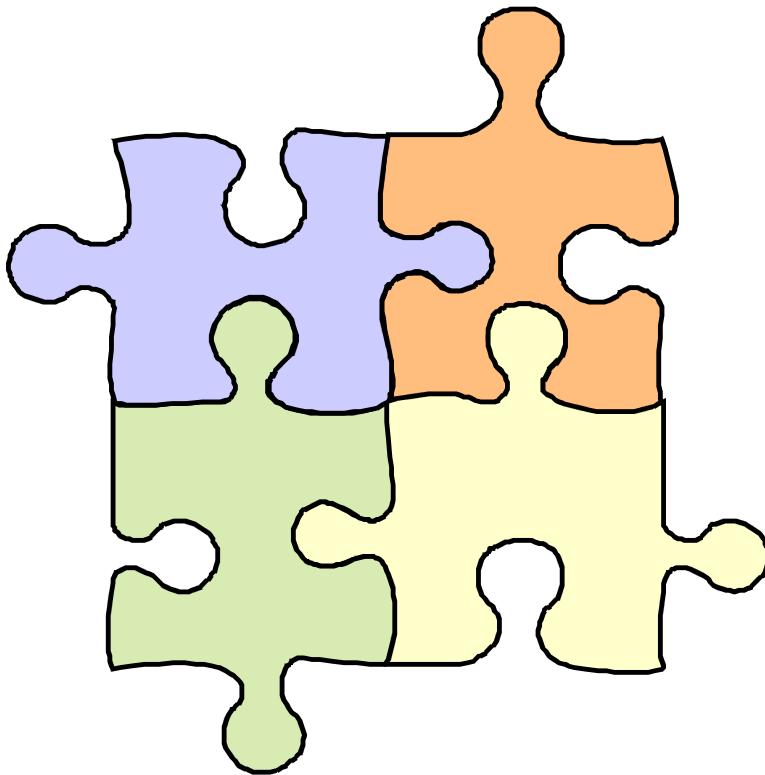
Withdrawal

WD — Rule of Thumb

- Ask yourself, if the situation were to change for the better, would the student return to your school or be visited by one of your teachers on a regular basis?
 - Yes — use WD
 - No — use dropout or, if appropriate, one of the transfer codes, if not actually expelled or suspended



More Information



- Documentation
 - of data elements and processes by the State of Utah
- Bibliography
 - of studies by other entities



Utah State Government Documentation

- **Pupil Accounting Rule**
 - www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-419.htm
- **Data Clearinghouse File Layout**
 - www.schools.utah.gov/computerservices/Clearinghouse/Clearinghouse.htm
- **Transfer Student Documentation Audit**
 - www.sao.state.ut.us/sulcag/LCAG2006.pdf (pp. 175-188)
- **NCLB/AYP Plan**
 - www.usoe.k12.ut.us/nclb/documents/pdf/AYPPlan.pdf (pp. 32-36)



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- User's Guide to Computing High School Graduation Rates, Volume 2: Technical Evaluation of Proxy Graduation Indicators (August 2006)
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- Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools From the Common Core of Data: School Years 2002–03 and 2003-04 (July 2006)
 - nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006606rev
- Dropout Rates in the United States: 2002 and 2003 (July 2006)
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- Graduation Counts: A Report of the National Governors Association Task Force on State High School Graduation Data (July 2005)
 - www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0507GRAD.PDF
- National Institute of Statistical Sciences/Education Statistics Services Institute Task Force on Graduation, Completion, and Dropout Indicators (November 2004)
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