

# WISCONSIN'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE CALCULATIONS

## Extended Rate\*

=> sunsets 2012-13

- **Regular Diploma** regardless of year first began 9th grade *divided by* Total Expected: *Regular Diploma*, other completers, and non-completers  
(\*non-cohort rate in use since 2003-04)

## 4-Year Cohort Rate

begins (All Students & Subgroups) 2011-12 =>

- **Regular Diploma** within **4-Years**  
*divided by* **Total Students** in the **4-year Cohort** in WI

## 6-Year Extended Cohort Rate

begins 2012-13 =>

- **Regular Diploma** within **6-Years**  
*divided by* **Total Students** in the **6-year Cohort** in WI

**Regular High School Diploma** is defined by federal regulations 34 C.F.R. §200.19(b)(1)(iv)). In Wisconsin, diplomas meeting the requirements of s.118.33 (1)(a) or (d), *Wis. Stats.* are considered regular diplomas.

### Not counted as a Graduate:

- **Other completion Credentials** such as HSED and Certificate of Attendance or Completion
- *Students who do not graduate with a Regular Diploma within the timeframe*
- **Dropouts** including students not transferred to another school culminating in a regular diploma or who are not known to be continuing and students reaching maximum age

### **Removed from Cohort** (documented):

- Transfers to another regular HS Diploma-granting school (in an out-of-state or non-public WI school)
- Students who have died
- Students who emigrated to another country

# Comparing Four-Year *and* Extended-Year Graduation Rate Calculations

## Four-Year Rate

### Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

Beginning with 2009-10 rates, a four-year adjusted cohort rate will be calculated annually as follows:

$$\frac{\text{number of students in the cohort who graduate within four years with a regular high school diploma}^1}{\text{number of students who form the four-year adjusted cohort for the graduating class}}$$

Students are assigned to one and only one statewide cohort when they first begin high school in Wisconsin public schools.<sup>2</sup> Students are not counted in the rate until the end of the four-year timeframe for their assigned cohort. At the end of the four-year timeframe, adjustments are made to remove any non-graduate from the cohort if the most recent school/district confirms in writing that the student transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased prior to the end of the four-year timeframe.

## Extended-Year Rates

### Current Graduation Rate Formula

2003-04 through 2010-11 rates have been and will continue to be calculated annually as follows:

$$\frac{\text{number of students who graduate with a regular high school diploma}^1 \text{ that year}}{\text{number of students expected to complete high school that year}}$$

Students count as graduates in the rate for the year they graduate. The "number of students expected to complete high school" is the denominator used to calculate graduation and completion rates and is the sum of

- the dropouts over four years (also known as cohort dropouts) plus
- students who reached the maximum age without completing high school plus
- high school completers (any credential).

The current DPI rate is considered an "extended-year rate" because the relevant graduation timeframe is not limited to four years. This rate will be discontinued after 2010-11 when sufficient data are available to calculate a six-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.

### Six-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

Beginning with 2011-12 rates, a six-year adjusted cohort rate will be calculated annually as follows:

$$\frac{\text{number of students in the cohort who graduate within six years with a regular high school diploma}^1}{\text{number of students who form the six-year adjusted cohort for the graduating class}}$$

Students are assigned to one and only one statewide cohort when they first begin high school in Wisconsin public schools.<sup>2</sup> Students are not counted in the rate until the end of the six-year timeframe for their assigned cohort. At the end of the six-year timeframe, adjustments are made to remove any non-graduate from the cohort if the most recent school/district has confirmed in writing that the student transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased prior to the end of the six-year timeframe.

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1 "Regular high school diploma", pursuant to federal regulations 34 C.F.R. §200.19(b)(1)(iv)), means the standard high school diploma that is awarded to students in the State and that is fully aligned with the State's academic content standards or a higher diploma that does not include a GED credential, certificate of attendance, or any alternative award. In Wisconsin, this includes any high school diploma that meets the requirements of [§118.33 \(1\) \(a\) or \(d\)](#), *Wis. Stats.*

2 Assignment to a statewide cohort is based on two factors:

- school year of student's first high school enrollment period in Wisconsin public schools, and
- student's grade level placement at the time of that first high school enrollment period.

After a student is assigned to a statewide cohort, the assignment is permanent. Each statewide cohort is associated with 4 and 6 year graduation timeframes that begin at grade 9.