

# Graduation Rates

## What are the graduation rates?

Idaho calculates both four-year and five-year adjusted cohort graduation rates. These rates represent the percentage of students who meet regular Idaho high school graduation requirements in the either four or five years, respectively. These measures do not include students who earn a GED, but do account for students who may transfer in and out of school.

## Why is the graduation rate important?

Obtaining a high school diploma dramatically increases a student's future educational and workplace opportunities. Measuring the graduation rate allows the state to track how schools are meeting the goal of ensuring all Idaho students are college and career ready.

The four- and five-year graduation rates are annual indicators of overall school performance. In addition, Idaho identifies schools with a rate less than 67% averaged over three years for Comprehensive Support and Improvement.

**Previously, this calculation used the four-year rate and it will use the five-year rate in the future.**

## How will Idaho calculate graduation rates for school accountability?

Students who are entering grade 9 for the first time form a cohort that is subsequently "adjusted" by adding any students who transfer into the school during the next four years and subtracting any students who transfer out, immigrate to another country, or pass away during that same period. The cohort graduation rates lag the other indicators.

The four-year graduation rate for the class of 2019 is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\begin{aligned} & \text{Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma through summer 2019} \\ & + \\ & \text{Number of students in grade 9 for the first time in fall 2015} \\ & + \text{Students who transferred in} \\ & - \text{Students who transferred out, emigrated, or died during the school years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019} \end{aligned}}{\text{Number of students in grade 9 for the first time in fall 2015} + \text{Students who transferred in} - \text{Students who transferred out, emigrated, or died during the school years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019}}$$

The five-year graduation rate for the class of 2018 is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\begin{aligned} & \text{Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma through summer 2019} \\ & + \\ & \text{Number of students in grade 9 for the first time in fall 2014} \\ & + \text{Students who transferred in} \\ & - \text{Students who transferred out, emigrated, or died during the school years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019} \end{aligned}}{\text{Number of students in grade 9 for the first time in fall 2014} + \text{Students who transferred in} - \text{Students who transferred out, emigrated, or died during the school years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019}}$$

## DATA SOURCES

Four- and five-year graduation rates are based on exit codes submitted in June 2019 ISEE reports and appealed by schools in November 2019.

**Questions?** Contact the Assessment & Accountability team at [assessments@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:assessments@sde.idaho.gov)

