

PRINCIPLE 7. State definition of AYP includes graduation rates for public High schools and an additional indicator selected by the State for public Middle and public Elementary schools (such as attendance rates).

7.1 What is the State definition for the public High school graduation rate?

Rhode Island will use the graduation rate as the additional indicator of performance for high schools. If a high school fails to meet targets for the high school graduation rate, it will be classified as a low performing school regardless of its test score performance.

A statewide baseline measure will be established for the high school graduate rate. The procedure for defining the baseline will parallel the procedure for defining the baseline for the academic measures. Schools will be ranked by graduation rate and the cumulative number of students will be calculated. The graduation rate of the school where the cumulative count of graduates plus dropouts reaches 20 percent of students statewide will be the baseline (class of 2002).

Annual measurable objectives and intermediate goals will be established working forward from the baseline to achieve a 2013-14 graduate rate of 95 percent. The progression of these goals will follow the same pattern and logic as that applied to the assessment measures. High schools that do not keep pace with these goals will be classified as low performing schools.

For fifteen years, Rhode Island consistently used a synthetic cohort formula to calculate the dropout rate for high schools. The formula used current grade-specific dropout rates at grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 to simulate the retention of an entering cohort of 9th grade students. Beginning with the graduating class of 2002, Rhode Island will change to the more direct cohort estimation formula, which reconstructs an actual class of students moving through high school. Fortunately, Rhode Island has collected aggregate graduate and dropout counts by race in prior years, so the cohort estimation formula can be used to calculate the graduation rate for racial groups. We must phase in LEP, IEP and poverty data over the next several years to have subpopulation graduation rates for these groups. The data collection for high school graduation rates is unlike the database gathered using assessment data from which we are able to disaggregate student data.

Rhode Island will use the following NCES cohort estimation formula to calculate the dropout rate for the graduating class of 2001-02. However, those students who are GED recipients will be identified as non-graduates. This formula will be likewise used through the class of 2007 to report on whether schools meet annual measurable objectives.

$$\text{Graduation Rate} = \left[\frac{\text{Number of 2002 Graduates}}{\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ of 2002 graduates} + \\ \# \text{ of grade 9 dropouts in 1998-99} + \\ \# \text{ of grade 10 dropouts in 1999-2000} + \\ \# \text{ of grade 11 dropouts in 2000-01} + \\ \# \text{ of grade 12 dropouts in 2001-02} \end{array}} \right] \times 100$$

Rhode Island uses the NCES “Common Core” definition of a graduate and was among the first group of states to adopt this definition in 1991-92.

Beginning with school data submissions in October 2003, Rhode Island will begin converting to an exact student roster tracking method for calculating graduation rates. For the first school year (2003-04), schools

will submit a complete roster of 9th grade students with demographic and program information (race, IEP, LEP, poverty) for each named student identified by a unique student identifier. Dropout transactions will be maintained against this data file. Starting from October 2004, schools will submit complete rosters for grades 9-12 with necessary demographic and program information. This phase-in is summarized on the accompanying chart. For the graduating class of 2007 a new graduation rate baseline will be set using the student roster tracking method. Annual measurable objectives (AMOs) for 2008-14 will be based on the student roster tracking method.

PROJECTION OF GRADUATION RATE STATISTICS

Graduating Class of	NCES Cohort Estimation Formula	Cohort Estimation Disaggregations	Student Roster Tracking Method	Student Roster Disaggregations
2002	Baseline	Race	Not Available	-
2003	Report for AMO	Race	Not Available	-
2004	Report for AMO	Race	(Grade 9 enrollees for class of 2007)	All
2005	Report for AMO	Race	(Grades 9, 10)	All
2006	Report for AMO	Race	(Grades 9, 10, 11)	All
2007	Report for AMO	Race	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (Publish new Baseline)	All
2008	(Discontinue)		Report for AMO	All
2009			Report for AMO	All
2010			Report for AMO	All
2011			Report for AMO	All
2012			Report for AMO	All
2013			Report for AMO	All
2014			Report for AMO	All