

Graduation Rate

High School Level

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year (SY), the **Graduation Rate indicator** at the high school (HS) level will maintain the same calculation methodology from prior years.

What does the Graduation Rate indicator measure?

Graduation (Grad) Rate measures the unweighted average of the graduation rates of the 4-Year (Yr), 5-Yr, and 6-Yr cohorts as of August 31 of the preceding year for each accountability subgroup. Grad Rate accountability data are lagged by one year because August grad data are not available until around two months into the school year.

4-Yr Grad Rate Cohort

Students who entered Grade 9 (or ungraded students with disabilities who turned 17) four years prior to the reporting year.

5-Yr Grad Rate Cohort

Students who entered Grade 9 (or ungraded students with disabilities who turned 17) five years prior to the reporting year.

6-Yr Grad Rate Cohort

Students who entered Grade 9 (or ungraded students with disabilities who turned 17) six years prior to the reporting year.

Students who receive a Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential or a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential and students who drop out are included in the Grad Rate calculations as non-completers.

How is the Grad Rate indicator calculated?

1. For each cohort with 20 or more students, determine the 4-Yr, 5-Yr, and 6-Yr Grad Rates by dividing the number of students in the cohort who earned a New York State diploma (Regents or local) by August 31st by the number of students in that cohort as of June 30th.

$$\text{Grad Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ Students who earned a Regents or local diploma by August 31st}}{\# \text{ Students in the cohort as of June 30th}} \times 100$$

2. Calculate the unweighted average of the 4-Yr, 5-Yr, and 6-Yr Grad Rates.

$$\text{Unweighted Average Grad Rate} = \frac{\text{4-Yr Grad Rate} + \text{5-Yr Grad Rate} + \text{6-Yr Grad Rate}}{3}$$

3. Rank schools based on their Unweighted Average Grad Rates in ascending order. The higher the rank, the better the performance.

4. Assign a Grad Rate Level based on where the school falls in the ranking and the statewide rank-based cut points shown in the table below.

| Rank | Grad Rate Level |
|----------|-----------------|
| ≤ 10% | 1 |
| 10.1-50% | 2 |
| 50.1-75% | 3 |
| ≥ 75% | 4 |

What is an example of a Grad Rate calculation?

Let's calculate the Grad Rate Level for School P.

1. Determine the 4-yr, 5-yr, and 6-yr Grad Rates:

4-Yr
Grad Rate Cohort



$$100 \times \frac{96}{100} = 96$$

5-Yr
Grad Rate Cohort



$$100 \times \frac{60}{80} = 75$$

6-Yr
Grad Rate Cohort

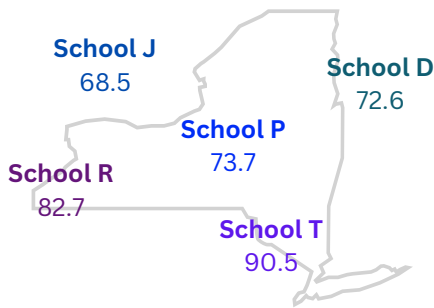


$$100 \times \frac{20}{40} = 50$$

2. Calculate the unweighted average of the 4-Yr, 5-Yr, and 6-Yr Grad Rates:

$$\text{Unweighted Average Grad Rate} = \frac{96 + 75 + 50}{3} = 73.7$$

3. Rank among all schools in New York State:



| School Index | Rank |
|------------------|------|
| School J 68.5 | 1 |
| School D 72.6 | 2 |
| School P 73.7 | 3 |
| School R 82.7 | 4 |
| School T 90.5 | 5 |

Assume five schools in New York State for example purposes.

4. Assign a Grad Rate Level based on the rank:

| School Index | Rank |
|------------------|------|
| School J 68.5 | 1 |
| School D 72.6 | 2 |
| School P 73.7 | 3 |
| School R 82.7 | 4 |
| School T 90.5 | 5 |

| Rank | Grad Rate Level |
|-------|-----------------|
| ≥ 75% | 4 |

How can the Grad Rate indicator be used for continuous improvement?

In years in which schools are identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), a HS will be identified for CSI if its All Students group's 4-Yr Grad Rate is lower than 67% and both its 5-yr and 6-yr Grad Rates are not at or above 67%.

Schools with a Grad Rate Level 1 or 2 are encouraged to conduct a needs assessment to highlight areas for growth. Data used for calculating Grad Rate can be found in the SIRS 105 report.

The Grad Rate indicator can provide insight on needs for accountability subgroups that would benefit from strategic continuous improvement.

Community conversations can be held involving all stakeholders to review existing programming in an effort to boost graduation rates.

Want to know more?

For more tools and resources about the New York State ESSA Accountability System, visit the NYSED School and District Accountability Resources and Data website.

<https://www.nysed.gov/accountability/school-and-district-accountability-resources-and-data>

To learn more about resources and supports for identified schools and districts, visit the NYSED Office of Accountability's Continuous Improvement website.

<https://www.nysed.gov/accountability/continuous-improvement>