

2020-2021

School Performance  
Graduation Rate Guidance  
Class of 2021



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## **Graduation Rates for the Class of 2021**

### ***Will Districts and schools be responsible for Graduation Rates?***

Yes, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has an approved waiver from Accountability designations for 2021, but Arkansas will continue to report graduation rates to the U.S. Department of Education.

### ***Will our district be able to make Graduation Rate corrections?***

Yes, schools will be able to make Graduation Rate Corrections to both the 4 and 5 year rates.

### ***How will schools track students during the pandemic?***

Schools are expected to track students by updating reasons for student movement using E-School. The following are examples of student movement: transferred to another Arkansas school, moved out of the state or country, transferred to homeschool, enrolled in private school, student death or placement in a Division of Youth Services Facility. All E-School reason codes for movement must have documentation.

### ***What types of corrections can be made in the Graduation Rate Correction System?***

District officials may be able remove a student from the cohort for the following reasons: if a student has moved out of the state or country, enrolled in a private school, transferred to homeschool, student death or placement in a Division of Youth Services Facility. In addition, schools can correct a cohort record, by presenting proof of graduation in the form of an official Transcript for actual graduates that may show up in the system as non-graduates. Finally, the system does have the option to add a student to the cohort, but this can only be done with a written letter from District leadership requesting the student to be added to a cohort. To add on-time graduates, provide a copy of an official transcript with seal and signature showing the graduation date.

### ***Which students can be removed from the Graduation Cohort and what will be acceptable documentation to support the removal of a student from the graduation cohort? U.S. Department of Education, 2017 (Every Student Succeeds Act High School Graduation Rate Non-Regulatory Guidance).***

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essagradrateguidance.pdf>

Students can be removed from the graduation cohort for the following reasons:

- On-time students that move to another Arkansas School will automatically be removed from the cohort. The student's state ID is used to track movement of all students in the State of Arkansas Public School Computer Network.
- On-time students can be removed from the cohort if they move out of the State of Arkansas. Students that move out of the State of Arkansas must be on-time transfers. A request for records from the receiving out-of- state school must be submitted as documentation to be removed from the cohort. The request for records must be accompanied by a screenshot of the E-School entry/withdrawal screen.

- Students can be removed from a cohort if they emigrate to another country. We do understand that it may be difficult to monitor the movement of students as they move from country to country, but it is the district's responsibility to monitor the movement of these students. Documentation that the student moved to another country could be a request for records from the receiving country or a letter from a parent telling the school of their intention to move out of the country. If no information can be obtained, then and only then can the Superintendent write a letter verifying that the student did indeed move out of the county as documentation. The documentation must be accompanied by a screenshot of the E-School entry/withdrawal screen.
- Students may transfer to homeschool. Students that elect to attend homeschool can be removed from the cohort. Students must transfer to homeschool on-time. Districts can submit a copy of the homeschool waiver form with a screenshot of the E-School entry/withdrawal screen.
- Students may transfer to private school. Students that transfer to a private school, must be on-time. A request for records from the receiving private school must be submitted as documentation to be removed from the cohort. The request for records must be accompanied by a screenshot of the E-School entry/withdrawal screen.
- Students that die during the cohort can be removed. Unfortunately, some students may pass away before graduation. These students will automatically be removed from the cohort if coded appropriately in E-School. If a student death is not reported during the cohort, the school can submit a copy of the online or newspaper obituary as documentation.
- Students may transfer to the Division of Youth Services. If a student is court ordered to attend a Division of Youth Services facility, a letter from the facility is acceptable documentation. The student should graduate from DYS or return to school. If the student does not return to school or graduate from a DYS program then the student will count against the sending school's cohort.

***My student passed the GED test and wants to Graduate with a traditional High School Diploma***

If a student passes the GED during their cohort, students can take the GED test scores to the school district to have their scores evaluated for course equivalency. Districts can use these scores to develop a traditional graduation plan for the student. This may or may not mean students will need to take additional classes to qualify for graduation status within his or her perspective district.