Annual Dropout, Graduation, and Completion Rates

TASA Midwinter Conference

January 26, 2009

Division of Accountability Research
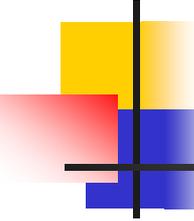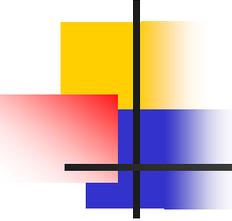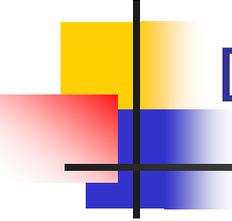
Texas Education Agency

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Who is a dropout?

Dropout definition

A dropout is a student who attends Grade 7-12 in a public school in a particular school year, does not return the following fall, is not expelled, and does not:

- graduate,
- receive a General Educational Development certificate (GED),
- continue school outside the public school system,
- begin college, or
- die.

Note. SB186, 78th Legislature, directed districts to collect data consistent with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) dropout definition beginning in 2005-06. The 2008-09 school year is the fourth year the definition is in effect.
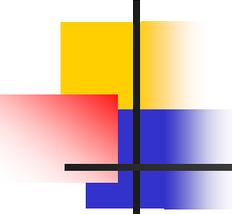
Changes resulting from adoption of the NCES definition

| Before adoption:	After adoption:
30 leaver codes	14 leaver codes[a]
Return to school by mid-Jan. data deadline	Return to school by last Friday in Sept.[b]
GED by March 1 of next school year	GED by August 31 of same school year

[a]In 2005-06, the number of leaver reason codes was modified from 30 to 13. In 2006-07, one code was added, bringing the total to 14. [b]Migrant students continue to have a return deadline of mid-January.
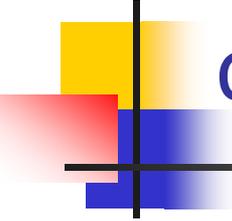
Leavers[a] who are now counted as dropouts

- Students who leave Texas public school to enter alternative programs, such as GED programs, and who don't receive GEDs by Aug. 31

- Students who meet all graduation requirements except passing exit-level test and who leave

- Previous dropouts who return and leave again

- Students ineligible for FSP[b] funding who leave

- Students who drop out from more than one district and the final district of attendance cannot be determined

[a]Students can only be counted as dropouts if they <u>leave</u> Texas public school. [b]Foundation School Program.
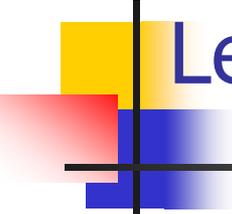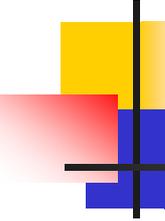
Leaver reason codes[a]:

01 – Graduated from a high school in this district.

03 – Died.

16 – Returned to home country.

24 – Entered college early to pursue degree.

60 – Withdrew for home schooling. This code may be used only for a student whose parent/guardian confirms that the student is or will be pursuing, under direct supervision of the parent/guardian, a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals.

(continues)

[a]The agency requires that districts have documentation to support the leaver reason code assigned to each leaver. See the *PEIMS Data Standards* (www.tea.state.tx.us/peims/standards/0809/appd.doc) for documentation requirements.
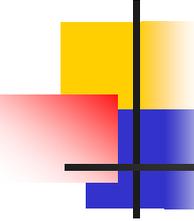
Leaver reason codes (continued):

66 – Removed by Child Protective Services.

78 – Expelled for criminal behavior under the provisions of TEC §37.007[a] and cannot return. This code should only be used for a student who met the following two conditions:

a) was expelled for an offense included in TEC §37.007

b) was expelled from a district located in a county that does not have a JJAEP[b.]

81 – Left for Texas private school.

(continues)

[a]Texas Education Code. [b]Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

Leaver reason codes (continued):

82 – Left for public or private school out of state.

83 – Withdrawn by district for nonresidence, falsification of enrollment information, or failure to provide immunization documentation. This code is for a student who was not a resident at the time of enrollment. It is **not** for a student who stops attending because he/she has moved.

85 – Graduated outside TX before entering a TX public school, entered a TX public school, and left again.

86 – Completed GED outside TX.

87[a] – Enrolled in SBOE[a]-authorized Texas Tech Univ. High School Diploma program or UT-Austin High School Diploma program.

98[b] – Other.

[a]State Board of Education. [b]Included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.
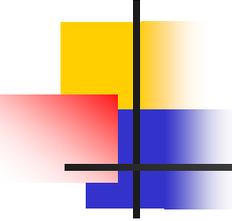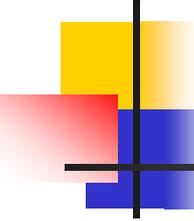
Annual dropout rate
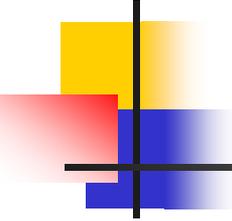
Annual dropout rate calculation

- Definition: The percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year.

- This method produces the lowest rate of all the methods for counting dropouts.
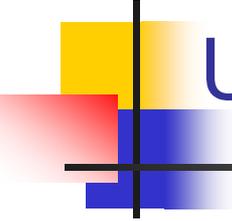
- Calculation:

number of students who dropped out during the school year
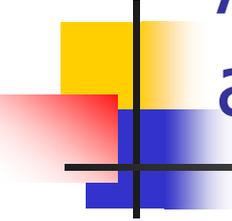number of students enrolled during the school year

Annual dropout results, 2006-07

	Dropouts	Students	Rate
Grade 7-8	2,888	689,733	0.4%
Grade 9-12	52,418	1,333,837	3.9%
Grade 7-12	55,306	2,023,570	2.7%

Uses of annual dropout data at TEA

- State accountability
- Performance Based Monitoring
- Dropout prevention plans

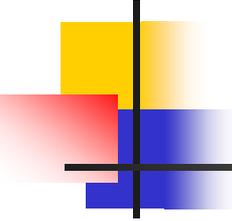# Annual dropout rates and state accountability for 2009[a]

Standard accountability procedures:

- Evaluated on the Grade 7-8 annual dropout rate
- Standard for all rating categories: 2.0% or less

Alternative accountability procedures:

- Evaluated on the Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate
- Standard: 10.0% or less

[a]Final determinations will be made in spring 2009.

# Annual dropout rates and Performance Based Monitoring (PBM):

Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS)

- Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate of 2% or less for:
  - Limited English proficient (LEP) students
  - Migrant students
  - Special education students
- Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate of 3% or less for:
  - Career and technical education students

Leaver Data Validation[a]

- A decrease in the annual dropout rate that is significantly greater than the decrease of similar districts.
- 200 or more underreported students or an underreported rate of 5.0% or more.
- Zero dropouts and high use of one or more leaver codes.

[a]A decrease in the dropout rate, or high use of leaver codes, may be the result of accurate reporting by the district. Validation of accurate reporting of data is a critical part of the process that is necessary to validate and safeguard the integrity of the leaver data system.
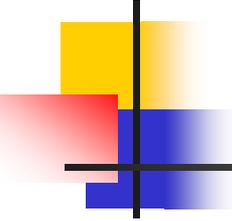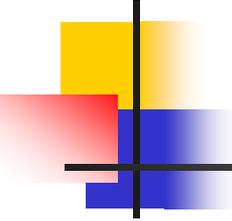
Annual dropout rates and dropout prevention plans

- The Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate is used in determining which districts and charter schools are required to submit dropout prevention plans to TEA, as required by HB 2237.
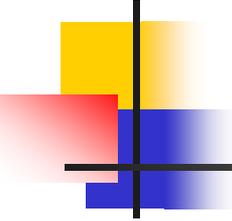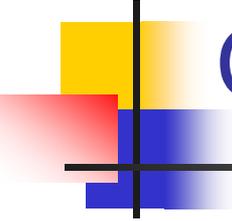
Completion rate

Longitudinal completion rate

- The completion rate is the percentage of students from a class of first-time ninth graders who complete their high school education by their anticipated graduation date.

- This rate is calculated by tracking first-time ninth graders through the fall after their expected graduation. The cohort includes students who transfer in during the second, third, or fourth years.

- Once a class has finished high school, students are assigned a final status of graduate, continuer, GED recipient, or dropout.

Components of the completion rate

- Graduate – a student who graduates early or on time

- Continuer – a student who is still in high school after the expected graduation date

- GED recipient – a student who earns a GED by the expected graduation date

- Dropout – a student who drops out and does not graduate, return to school, or earn a GED by the expected graduation date
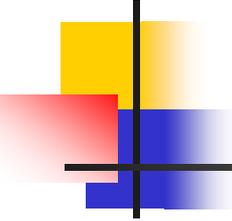
Dropout definition in the class of 2008 longitudinal rate

Dropouts are counted according to the definition in place the year the student left school. The definition changed in 2005-06. Thus, students in the class of 2008 who left in 2005-06, 2006-07, or 2007-08 were subject to a different definition than that which applied to students from the same class who left in 2004-05.

| Year	Dropout definition
2004-05	Previous state accountability
2005-06	NCES
2006-07	NCES
2007-08	NCES
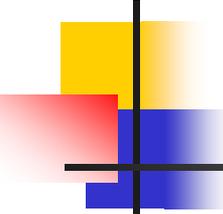
Cohort vs. class

What is a cohort?

All students tracked from the beginning year through the fall after the expected graduation, regardless of final status.
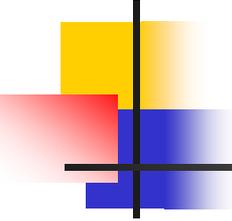
What is a class?

The students from a cohort with a final status of graduate, continuer, GED recipient, or dropout. Completion rates are based solely on students with one of these final statuses.
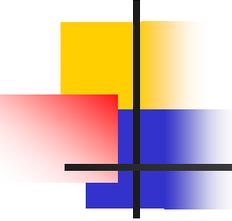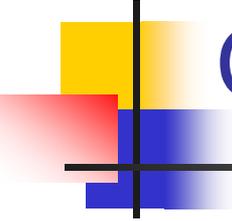
Cohort membership

- A student belongs to one and only one cohort.

- This means that a student who is retained in grade or graduates early is not moved to another cohort.
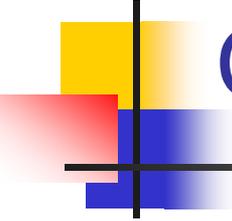
Longitudinal rate calculations

Calculations

Completion I rate

Use in state accountability: Campuses rated under standard accountability procedures are evaluated on the *completion I rate*

$$\frac{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers}}{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers} + \text{GED recipients} + \text{dropouts}}$$
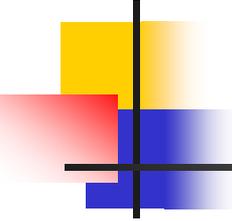
Calculations (continued)

Completion II rate

Use in state accountability: Campuses rated under alternative education accountability procedures are evaluated on the *completion II rate*

$$\frac{\text{graduates + continuers + GED recipients}}{\text{graduates + continuers + GED recipients + dropouts}}$$
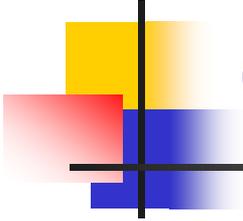
Calculations (continued)

Graduation rate

Use in federal accountability: Campuses are evaluated on the graduation rate for adequate yearly progress (AYP)
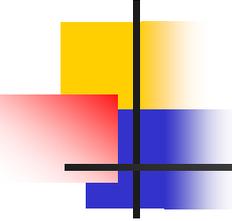
Use in PBMAS: The graduation rate is reported for districts in the Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System

$$\frac{\text{graduates}}{\text{graduates + continuers + GED recipients + dropouts}}$$

How to build a longitudinal cohort

How is the longitudinal cohort built?

- Determine which students are in the cohort (beginning ninth graders + transfers in).[a]

- Track students for 5 years.

- Determine leaver status (if any) for each year.

- Determine final status.

[a]A student belongs to one, and only one, cohort. This means that a student who graduates early or repeats a grade is not moved to another cohort.
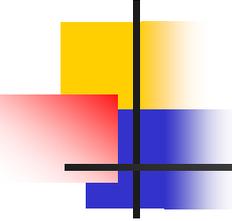
Class of 2008: Summary of cohort build

|	Attendance records, Grades 9-12	Graduate, other leaver, GED, and dropout databases	Fall enrollment records
2004-05[a]	X	X	
2005-06[b]	X	X	
2006-07[b]	X	X	
2007-08[b]	X	X	
2008-09[c]			X

[a]Grade 9 students, with Grade 9 students from previous 5 years (repeaters) excluded. [b]Students who match, regardless of grade, + students who join on grade level. [c]Students who match, regardless of grade.
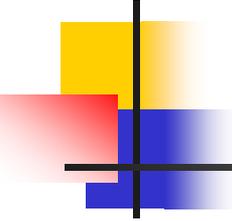
Transfers in

Students can be added to a district's cohort in one of two ways:

1. <u>District-to-district movers</u>. A student can begin grade 9 in one district and move into and enroll in another district. The student is still in the class of 2008 cohort. The student leaves the sending district's cohort and enters the receiving district's cohort.

2. <u>Students new to the Texas public school system</u>. A student who enrolls "on-grade" with the expected grade of the cohort is added to the district's cohort. For example, a student who enrolls in grade 10 2005-06 when the on-grade members of the cohort are in grade 10 is added to the district's cohort.
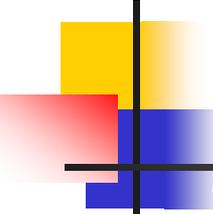
Determine statuses for the class of 2008: Every student will have one of the statuses below

Status	Definition	Included in final completion calculation?
Graduate	Graduated by August 31, 2008	Yes
Continuer	Enrolled by October 24, 2008[a]	Yes
GED recipient	Received GED by August 31, 2008	Yes
Dropout	Dropped out	Yes
Other leaver	Left for reasons other than graduating or dropping out	No
Underreported	No record received	No
Student ID error	Cannot track student from year to year because of errors in identification information[b]	No

[a]The school-start window was extended in 2008-09 because of Hurricane Ike. [b]Error might have been made by either sending or receiving district.
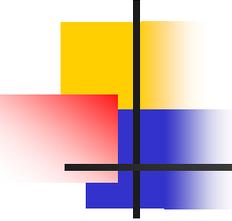
Leaver codes for the class of 2008

Students who left in 2004-05:

Graduate: 01

Other leaver: 03, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 30, 31, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 72, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83
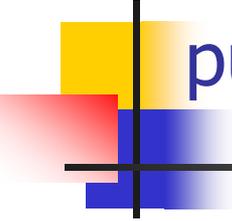
Dropout: 02, 04, 08, 09, 10, 14, 15, 79, 84, 99

Students who left in 2005-06, 2006-07, or 2007-08[a]:

Graduate: 01

Other leaver: 03, 16, 24, 60, 66, 78, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87[b]

Dropout: 98

[a]Codes reflect NCES dropout definition. [b]Added in 2006-07.

When a student has multiple statuses, then the status in the last year the student attended Texas public school becomes the final status, except:
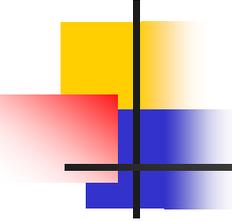
| If leaver status is:	Then final status is:
Graduate in any year	Graduate
Dropout but student received GED by 8/31/08	GED recipient

Completion results, class of 2007

	Number	Rate[a]
Graduates	226,712	78.0%
Continuers	25,257	8.7%
GED recipients	5,688	2.0%
Dropouts	33,005	11.4%
Completion I	251,969	86.7%
Completion II	257,657	88.6%

[a]Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.
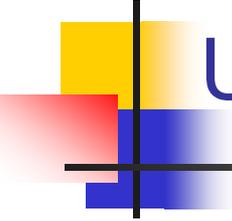
Uses of longitudinal rates at TEA

- State accountability
- Federal accountability
- Performance Based Monitoring
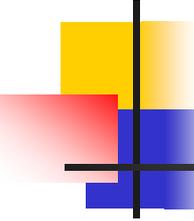
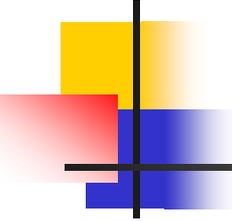# Longitudinal rates and state accountability for 2009[a]

Standard accountability procedures:

- Evaluated on the completion I rate where completers are graduates and continuers.
- Standard starts at 75% for *academically acceptable*

Alternative accountability procedures:

- Evaluated on the completion II rate where completers are graduates, continuers, and GED recipients.
- Standard: 75% or more

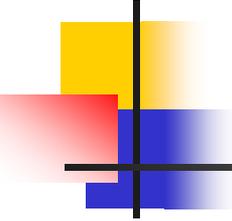[a]Final determinations will be made in spring 2009.

Longitudinal rates and federal accountability (AYP[a])

- A graduation rate of 70% or more.

- The graduation rate for federal reporting is the same as for state reporting:

$$\frac{graduates}{graduates + continuers + GED\ recipients + dropouts}$$

[a]Adequate Yearly Progress.

# Longitudinal rates and Performance Based Monitoring (PBM)

Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS)

- Grade 9 longitudinal graduation rate in reporting stage[a] for:
  - Career and technical education students
  - Limited English proficient (LEP) students
  - Migrant students
  - Special education students

[a]The reporting stage precedes use in the analysis system. Districts are encouraged to look at graduation rates for these populations in anticipation of being monitored.
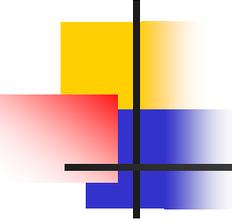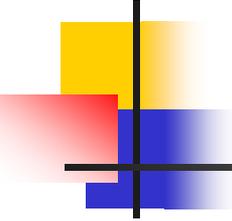
Attrition rate
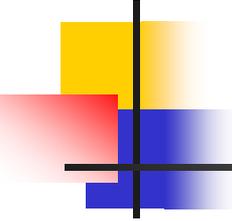
Attrition rate

- An attrition rate is the percentage change in enrollment between two grades across years.
- It is an estimate of a longitudinal dropout rate.
- It produces the highest rate of any method.
- Provides a simple measure of school leavers when enrollment numbers are the only data available.
- Treats as dropouts students who, for example, are retained in grade, graduate early, enter private school, move to another public school, or die.
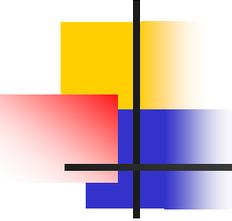
Attrition rate calculation and results for 2006-07

The attrition rate uses aggregate enrollment figures, rather than student-level data, to estimate the percentage of Grade 9 students who are not enrolled in Grade 12 three years later.

$$\frac{\text{Grade 9 enrollment in fall 2003} - \text{Grade 12 enrollment in fall 2006}}{\text{Grade 9 enrollment in fall 2003}}$$

$$\frac{375,358 - 262,905}{375,358} = 30.0\%$$

The attrition rate is not a dropout rate because attrition:

- does not track individual students from year to year
- does not take into account grade 9 enrollment that may be high because of students repeating grade 9
- does not take into account grade 12 enrollment that may be lower than grade 9 enrollment three years earlier because of:
  - students who leave for private school, home school, school out-of-state, etc.
  - students who graduate early
  - students who are in grades 9, 10, or 11 in fall 2006
  - students who die
- does not tell us whether a student enrolled in grade 12 in fall 2006 goes on to graduate
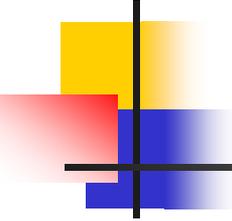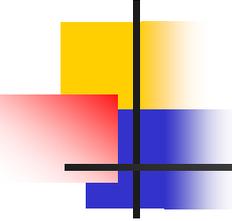
Resources
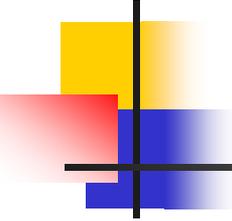
Resources

- Student-level listings on TEASE, Accountability link, RES tab
  - Preliminary cohorts
  - Final completion rate lists
  - Annual dropout lists
- Technical document on how to build a completion rate
  - www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/resources/20080814a.pdf

Preliminary cohort lists on TEASE

- Provided so that districts know when students are expected to graduate for accountability purposes.

- The student-level listings provide cohort membership information for the four cohorts going through high school at any one time.

- For example, in 2007-08:
  - Class of 2008 was in grade 12 (year 4)
  - Class of 2009 was in grade 11 (year 3)
  - Class of 2010 was in grade 10 (year 2)
 - Class of 2011 was in grade 9 (year 1)
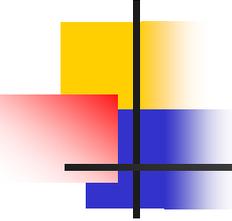
Preliminary cohort lists on TEASE (continued)

- Show student information (name, date of birth, ethnicity, etc.) and last year attended Texas public schools.
- Cohort members, regardless of final status, are included on list.
- A student is shown on the district of last attendance.
- Leaver status is not reflected on the lists.
- Cannot be corrected.
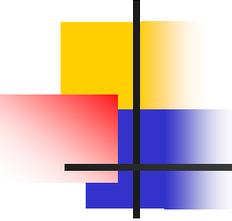- Updated each October with the most recent PEIMS attendance data.
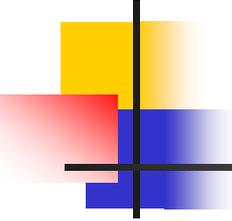
Final completion lists

- The student-level listings provide final completion status for every student in a district's cohort.

- Available in June.

- Used for accountability ratings in August.
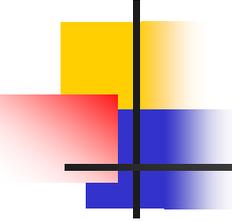
Annual dropout lists

- The student-level listings provide the names of students who dropped out of grades 7-12 in the previous school year.

- Available in June.

- Used for accountability ratings in August.

- Can be combined with preliminary cohort information to encourage students to return to school.

Contacts

Division of Accountability Research: (512) 475-3523

Printed reports:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/research/reports.html

Data searches:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/entry.html