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## **Vermont Public School Dropout and High School Completion Summary**

### **Dropout Rates Information**

The dropout section of this report summarizes information on students in grades 7 through 12 who withdrew from secondary schools in Vermont. Data included in this report were collected as part of the Agency of Education's Spring Student Census update.

A dropout by state and federal definition is an individual student who is not enrolled in an approved educational program and who has not graduated from high school. In Vermont, a student who is absent for more than ten consecutive school days without authorization is classified as withdrawn. If a truant officer is unable to verify that the student has transferred to a different school or approved educational program (e.g. home school) before the end of the year, the student is considered a dropout for the purposes of this report. A summer dropout is a student who completed the previous school year, who was absent for the first ten days of the current school year, and who did not transfer to a different educational program. Appendix A is a guide published by the National Center of Education Statistics to clarify whether a student no longer attending school is classified as a dropout.

### **Completion Rates Information**

We are reporting two separate completion rates in this report. The event completion rate represents the percentage of 12th grade students who were promoted from Vermont high schools. To calculate this rate we simply divide the number of promoted 12th graders by the adjusted enrollment of 12th graders during the same school year (see below for a definition of adjusted enrollment).

The cohort graduation rate is the percentage of students enrolled at a school who graduate within four years of entering ninth grade. Graduates are those earning high school diplomas. Students earning high school credentials by passing General Educational Development (GED) tests are not considered graduates for the purpose of this definition. Transfers and deceased students are not included in the denominator. The cohort graduation rate is then a measure of on-time completion, with all students expected to finish within four years.

### **Data Collection Methodology**

The data used to calculate the event rates included in this report were collected in the Spring Student Census Update. This report includes dropout and completion event rates from all public schools and the four historical academies: Burr & Burton, Lyndon Institute, St. Johnsbury Academy and Thetford Academy. These four historical academies do not record cohort graduation rates, so that is not reported here.

The Spring Student Census Update data are used to calculate the adjusted enrollment that serves as the denominator for both the event dropout rate and the event completion rate. The adjusted enrollment estimates the membership of the school by counting all of the students

except those who transferred to other educational programs or died during the school year. The adjusted enrollment for any particular grade or group of grades is calculated as follows:

### **Calculations:**

#### **Adjusted Enrollment**

(Promoted + Not Promoted + School year dropouts + Preceding Summer Dropouts)

#### **Dropout Rates**

An event dropout rate is the number of dropouts in a particular grade range, divided by the adjusted enrollment for that grade range in a single school year. For instance, the 9-12TH grade dropout rate is:

#### **Event Dropout Rate**

Reported Grades 9-12 Dropout Counts/Reported Grades 9-12 Adjusted

#### **Completion Rates**

Similarly, an event completion rate is the number of promoted 12TH graders divided by the adjusted enrollment of 12TH grade in a given school year.

#### **Event Completion Rate**

Reported 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Promoted/Reported 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Adjusted

The cohort rate is calculated by tracking the students from the time they enter grade 9. Students who graduate within four years are considered on-time graduates. The number of on-time graduates is divided by the total number of students in the cohort. Students who transfer into a school are included in the cohort, while students who transfer out are dropped from the cohort. For the SY2015 graduation rate, all students that entered grade 9 in SY2012 are included in the cohort.

#### **Cohort Graduation Rate**

On-time Graduates by Year X/(First-time Entering Ninth Graders in Year X-4)+(Transfers In)–  
(Transfers Out)

## APPENDIX C: DROPOUT INFORMATION

### Summary of School Leaver Status\*

A Student Who:		Dropout?
1.	Graduated or received some other recognized credential, such as a certificate of attendance or GED	No
2.	Only attended summer school in this school district (was not enrolled during the regular school year).	No
3.	Left school without a diploma or other certification after passing age up to which the district was required to provide free, public education.	Yes
4.	Died	No
5.	Gone: status is unknown	Yes
6.	Moved to another district in this or some other state, not known to be in school	Yes
7.	Moved out of the United States, enrollment status not known	No
8.	Transferred, enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another public school, a private school, or charter school</li> <li>• Home Schooling</li> <li>• Early College (Baccalaureate or associate’s degree) without receiving diploma</li> <li>• Adult education program not administered by a regular school district</li> </ul>	No No Yes Yes
9.	Is in an institution that is not primarily academic (military, possibly Job Corps, Corrections, ETC) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers a secondary education program</li> <li>• Does not offer a secondary education program</li> </ul>	No Yes
10.	Is not in school, but known to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning to enroll late (eg., extended family vacation, seasonal work)</li> <li>• Ill, verified as legitimate</li> <li>• Ill, Not verified as Legitimate</li> <li>• Suffering long-term illness and not receiving education services (residential drug treatment, severe physical or mental illness)</li> <li>• Suspended or expelled, term of suspension or expulsion not yet over</li> <li>• Suspended or expelled, term of suspension or expulsion over</li> <li>• Expelled, enrolled in another school and/or district</li> </ul>	No No Yes  No No Yes No
11.	In a nontraditional education setting, such as hospital/homebound instruction, residential special education, correctional institution, community or technical college. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program administered by agency considered a special school district or extension of regular school district</li> <li>• Program is off-campus offering of regular school district</li> <li>• Program is not approved or administered by regular district, classified as adult education</li> </ul>	No No  Yes

\*Adapted from Common Core of Data Non-Fiscal Survey instructions.