

Federal Graduation Rate

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to calculate and publish on the State Report Card a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) for all students and subgroups. The state, LEA and school report cards are published on the [iPlatform](#). This fact sheet provides information on the federal graduation rate calculation.

4- and 5-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR)

ESSA 8101(23),(25)

The U.S. Department of Education defines two types of graduation rates: The four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) and the five-year ACGR. In accordance with the federal law, the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) calculates the 4- and ACGR for School Year 23-24 as follows.

4-Year ACGR SY 23-24

$$\frac{\text{\# of students in the adjusted cohort who graduate in } \leq 4 \text{ years with a regular high school diploma}}{\text{\# of students who first enrolled in high school (Grade 9) anytime during School Year 19-20 (adjusted for transfers)}}$$

5-Year ACGR SY 23-24

$$\frac{\text{\# of students in the adjusted cohort who graduate in } \leq 5 \text{ years with a regular high school diploma}}{\text{\# of students who first enrolled in high school (Grade 9) anytime during School Year 18-19 (adjusted for transfers)}}$$

How is the Graduation Rate Used?

ESSA 1111(c)(4)(B)(iii)

ESSA requires states to annually measure as an indicator the 4-year and extended-year ACGRs for all students and separately for each subgroup of students. As such, NHED designates one indicator for high schools as the average of 4- and 5-year ACGRs.

Further, ESSA requires one statewide category in identifying schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement to be any public high school graduating less than 67% of its students within four years.

For more information on the federal accountability system in New Hampshire, refer to this [document](#).



A timely and accurate submission of your BOY and EOY data helps ensure that a correct graduation rate is reported publicly for your school.

What is Considered a Regular Diploma?

The federal law specifies the definition of a “regular diploma” as follows.

Included

- Regular Diploma (Standard high school diploma)
- Diploma with Distinction
- Adult Education Diploma

Not Included

- General equivalency diploma (i.e. HiSet, GED)
- Certificate of completion (including for completion of IEP goals)
- Certificate of attendance



Only students who earn a “regular diploma” are included in the 4- and 5-year ACGR calculation.

Cohort Determination and Adjustments

Students are placed in a cohort by NHED upon entering Grade 9 for the first time, as indicated on the Beginning of Year (BOY) or the End of Year (EOY) submissions. The cohort may be adjusted periodically for the following reasons only.

Added to the Cohort

- Transfers to any New Hampshire public school from a private school, homeschool, or out-of-state school (Placed in the same graduation cohort that they would have been in had they not transferred)

Removed from the Cohort

- Transfers to a private school, homeschool or a state institution such as prison, juvenile institution or mental institution
- Transfers outside the state or country, including foreign exchange students returning to home countries
- Students who cannot receive education services due to a long-term medical condition or who are permanently incapacitated (Add deceased category here)



To change a student’s cohort, a school must initiate a cohort override request through i4see and submit all supporting documents.

Resources

Refer to the following resources for additional information on federal accountability in New Hampshire.

<p>Trainings & Video Series</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas Course on Federal Accountability: Open to district and school staff only; contact accountability@doe.nh.gov for access • 1-Minute Accountability Series: Features 12 videos on key accountability concepts, including indicators, 95% rule, etc.
<p>Fact Sheets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Accountability System in New Hampshire: Overview of the key components of the NH federal accountability system • 2022 Changes to ESSA: Explains key changes to the ESSA State Plan effective Fall 2022
<p>Websites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHED ESSA Page: Displays information/updates relating to ESSA implementation at NHED • iReport: ESSA-required State Report Card that displays key accountability data at the state, district and school levels
<p>Official Documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated State Plan: Original State Plan that describes the NH federal accountability system • ESSA Addendum: Addendum to the State Plan approved in 2022