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State Performance Plan Indicator 1: Graduation Rate

Percent of youth with IEPs graduating with regular diploma



Who are the students included in this indicator?

Students included are students with disabilities who have individualized education programs (IEP) and who left high school either because they graduated or because of other reasons.

In New York State (NYS), data is collected annually for all students with IEPs and reported in the subsequent annual report (2021 graduation data is reported in the 2022 report due February of 2023).

What is the data source?

School districts annually report data to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) that indicates the reasons why students exit special education. Graduation is one of the reasons reported.

How are results calculated?

New Calculation for 2020-25: The number of students with IEPs who graduated high school with a regular high school diploma is divided by the total number of students with IEPs who left high school due to graduation, dropping out, or other reasons:

Students with IEPs who Graduated	÷	All students with IEPs who left high school by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Graduating with a regular diploma- Receiving a certificate or credential- Reaching the maximum age (21 years)- Dropping Out	X 100	= Indicator 1 Graduation Rate
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Students with IEPs who exited special education because they transferred to regular education or moved to a different school district are **not** included.

What is considered a regular high school diploma?

A regular high school diploma in NYS is a Regents diploma or a local diploma. Leaving high school with a certificate or credential (such as, the Career Development and Occupational Studies or Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential), alone, does not count as a regular high school diploma.

What is required for students with disabilities to graduate with a regular diploma?

To earn a NYS diploma, all students, including students with disabilities, must:

- earn 22 course credits by passing required courses; and
- pass Regents exams (or State-approved tests) in four subject areas (English, math, science and social studies) plus one pathway. School districts may also create additional diploma requirements.

If students are not able to earn a passing score of 65 on a Regents exam, they may be eligible to appeal that score. There are also various safety net options available for students with disabilities to allow a student to meet the exam requirements to graduate with a local diploma. Additionally, students with disabilities who are unable to meet the exam requirements, even with the safety net options, may use the superintendent determination option where the superintendent makes a local determination that the student has otherwise met the standards for graduation with a local high school diploma. More information can be found on NYSED's [Understanding NYS diploma Requirements -Family Resources webpage](#).

What actions is NYS taking to improve graduation rates for students with disabilities?

The Board of Regents and NYSED are reviewing NYS's high school graduation measures for all students. An online survey is posted on the [NYSED website](#), and regional meetings are in the planning stages to gather feedback on what a NYS diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for every student in NYS.