

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District

INFORMATIVE
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TO: Members, Board of Education
Ramon Cortines, Superintendent

FROM: *Cynthia*
Cynthia Lim, Executive Director
Office of Data and Accountability

SUBJECT: 2013-14 CDE GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the California Department of Education (CDE) will release statistics for the 2013-14 four year cohort graduation and dropout rates. The calculation is based on data that was submitted to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and includes all high school students, both comprehensive high schools and options schools.

According to the CDE, LAUSD's graduation rate for all high school students in 2013-14 was **70.4%, an increase of 2.3 percentage points from the previous year of 68.1**. For comprehensive high schools, the graduation rate was **81.8**. The final CDE graduation rates are higher than the preliminary graduation rate calculated by LAUSD in October 2014. The CDE graduation rate will be used for state accountability purposes, such as determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and in future years, will be included in the Academic Performance Index (API).

Calculation of the Cohort Graduation Rate

Both LAUSD and CDE use similar steps in calculating the graduation rate. The cohort graduation rate uses a unique student identifier to determine first time 9th graders, then tracks these students to determine which students graduated four years later. Students who transferred and re-enrolled in another school are subtracted from the cohort and students who transfer in are added to the cohort. At the end of four years, the graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of students in the cohort who received a diploma by the total number of students in the cohort.

LAUSD Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

LAUSD has been publishing a four-year graduation rate for comprehensive high schools since the 2007-08 for use on the School Report Card and Performance Meter. The rate is calculated for comprehensive high schools only and excludes options schools and special education centers.

Although the state has begun to use the same calculation, the CDE graduation rate is typically released late, approximately one year after the end of the school year, e.g., data for the 2013-14

school year is being released now, as we approach the end of the 2014-15 school year. Using the CALPADS dataset, the CDE is able to match student records across the state to determine dropouts and students who have re-enrolled. If a student was reported as a dropout in LAUSD but re-enrolled in another California district, the CDE removes that student from the four year cohort. For this reason, the CDE calculation differs from the LAUSD calculation.

To determine graduation rates in a timely manner, LAUSD calculates preliminary graduation rates earlier than the timeline used by CDE. Preliminary graduation rates for the 2013-14 school year were released in October of 2014. According to LAUSD calculations, the four year cohort rate was 67% for all schools and 77% for comprehensive high schools.

Table 1: *Preliminary and Final Graduation Rates for 2013-14*

	2013-14 Preliminary Cohort Grad Rate	2013-14 CDE Cohort Grad Rate	Difference
Comprehensive High Schools	76.7	81.8	+5.1
All Schools	67.4	70.4	+3

Graduation rates increased for all major subgroups in LAUSD, compared to the previous year. African-American students increased by 2.6 percentage points, Latino students by 2 percentage points and Asian students by 2.2 percentage points. English learners increased by 4.2 percentage points and for students with disabilities, the four-year cohort graduation rate increased by 10 percentage points, from 44.3 to 54.3.

Table 2: *CDE Cohort Graduation Rates by Subgroup for LAUSD*

	2012-13 CDE Cohort Grad Rate	2013-14 CDE Cohort Grad Rate	Change from Previous Year
All Students	68.1	70.4	2.3
Latino	67.4	69.4	2.0
African-American	63.7	66.3	2.6
Asian	73.5	75.7	2.2
White	85.2	86.7	1.5
English Learners	47.3	51.5	4.2
Economically Disadvantaged	68.6	70.7	2.1
Students with Disabilities	44.3	54.3	10.0

The CDE graduation rate is useful for comparing the graduation rates of LAUSD to other urban districts in California. LAUSD's 2013-14 graduation rate of 70.4% was lower than the state average and nine other urban districts in California. However, LAUSD was one of four districts that increased graduation rates by more than two percentage points from the previous year.

Table 3: *CDE Cohort Graduation Rates Among Urban Districts in California*

School District	2012-13 Cohort Grad Rate	2013-14 Cohort Grad Rate	Change from Previous Year
San Diego Unified	87.9	89.6	1.7
Santa Ana Unified	85.9	87.4	1.5
San Jose Unified	81.7	85.6	3.9
Sacramento City Unified	85.3	85.1	-0.2
Pomona Unified	79.1	83.0	3.9
Pasadena Unified	82.8	81.5	-1.3
Long Beach Unified	80.8	81.0	0.2
California	80.4	80.8	0.4
San Francisco Unified	81.7	79.9	-1.8
Fresno Unified	76.2	79.3	3.1
LAUSD	68.1	70.4	2.3
Oakland Unified	62.8	60.5	-2.3

When disaggregated by subgroups, Asian and White students had the highest graduation rates in LAUSD and across the state. The same pattern was observed across urban districts in California. In LAUSD, graduation rates for Latino students was 69.4% compared to the statewide average of 76.4%. Among African-American students, LAUSD's rate was 66.3% compared to the state average of 68.1%.

Table 4: *2013-14 CDE Cohort Graduation Rates by Ethnicity*

2013-14 Cohort Graduation Rate by Ethnicity, (CDE Rate)					
School District	All Students	Latino	Afr. Am.	White	Asian
San Diego Unified	89.6	85.0	86.6	95.2	92.4
Santa Ana Unified	87.4	87.2	85.0	85.7	96.3
San Jose Unified	85.6	78.0	82.1	92.7	95.8
Sacramento City Unified	85.1	82.1	73.3	90.8	90.9
Pomona Unified	83.0	82.6	81.4	82.3	92.7
Pasadena Unified	81.5	80.2	81.8	84.2	82.8
Long Beach Unified	81.0	78.8	73.7	88.8	87.9
California	80.8	76.4	68.1	87.4	92.3
San Francisco Unified	79.9	61.2	57.3	84.0	89.4
Fresno Unified	79.3	77.6	73.1	81.6	86.7
LAUSD	70.4	69.4	66.3	75.7	86.7
Oakland Unified	60.5	54.4	57.2	74.4	72.6

Dropouts

In the years prior to the use of the Cohort Graduation Rate, the state used a four-year derived dropout rate which estimated the number of dropouts over four years using a single year of data. The Four-Year Derived rate is no longer in use. Dropout rates are now calculated as a Cohort Dropout rate (the number of students who dropped out of the cohort over the four year period or did not graduate in four years).

The Cohort Dropout Rate ranged from 4.5% to 24.1% among major urban districts. The state average was 11.6%. Compared to other urban districts in California, LAUSD's Cohort Dropout rate was the second highest at 17%. Oakland's Cohort Dropout rate of 24.1% exceeded LAUSD's.

Table 5: *Cohort Dropout Rates*

	Cohort Dropout Rate		
	2012-13	2013-14	Change from Previous Year
San Diego Unified	5.2	4.5	-0.7
San Jose Unified	6.1	5.3	-0.8
Pasadena Unified	9.0	7.4	-1.6
Sacramento City Unified	9.6	8.2	-1.4
San Francisco Unified	9.2	10.2	1
Pomona Unified	14.8	10.9	-3.9
Long Beach Unified	10.7	11.6	0.9
California	11.4	11.6	0.2
Santa Ana Unified	8.9	11.9	3
Fresno Unified	15.6	14.0	-1.6
LAUSD	17.2	17.0	-0.2
Oakland Unified	21.7	24.1	2.4

Attachment A displays school lists with the CDE Cohort Graduation Rate for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years for comprehensive high schools. The CDE does not calculate Cohort Graduation Rates for options schools. Additional information can be found at the following website: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>.

If there are additional questions, please contact me or Grace Pang Bovy at (213) 241-2460.