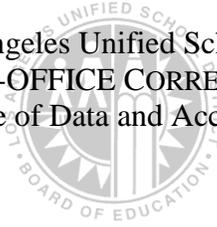


Los Angeles Unified School District  
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
Office of Data and Accountability



INFORMATIVE

October 2, 2014

TO: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. John E. Deasy, Superintendent

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

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY GRADUATION RATE FOR 2014

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This informative presents the preliminary 2012-13 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate for comprehensive high schools and all schools combined based on data entered as of June 30, 2014. This data does not include data corrections or students who graduated after attending summer school in 2014.

**The preliminary LAUSD Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate for comprehensive high schools in 2013-14 was 77%**, representing a 12 percentage point increase over last year's preliminary rate of 65%. This preliminary rate does not include summer 2014 graduates or any corrections schools may have made in graduation coding after June 30, 2014. Schools have additional opportunities to correct 2013-14 graduation data up to November 7, 2014 before the data is submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE). Final graduation statistics will not be available until early spring of 2015.

In order to provide a more timely graduation rate, LAUSD has been calculating a preliminary rate based on data collected as of June 30 of each year. Since 2010-11, this preliminary graduation rate has been used for reporting on the School Report Card, Performance Meter and School Performance Framework.

Table 1: Preliminary and Final Cohort Graduation Rates for Comprehensive High Schools

	Preliminary	Final	Diff.
2010-11	56	62	+6
2011-12	64	65	+1
2012-13	65	66	+1
2013-14	77	tbd	tbd

### Calculation of the Four Year Graduation Rate

The four year cohort graduation rate uses a unique student identifier to determine first time 9th graders, then tracks individual students to determine which students graduated four years later. Students who transferred to other schools and re-enrolled are subtracted from the cohort. Students who transfer in are added to the cohort. Students that have dropped out remain in the

cohort. At the end of four years, the graduation rate includes the number of students who began as first time 9th graders and the number of students that received a diploma.

LAUSD calculates a four-year cohort graduation rate for comprehensive high schools only. However, when the CDE calculates district level graduation rates, all schools, (comprehensive high schools and options schools) are included in the calculation. When option schools were included, the preliminary graduation rate for LAUSD was 67%, a nine percentage point increase from the preliminary rate of 58% from 2012-13.

While the number of graduates counted as of June 30 was nearly the same for 2013-14 as in 2012-13, the number of students included in the cohort for the Class of 2014 was considerably smaller (5,816 students less) compared to the previous year. For example, in 2012-13, there were 44,213 students included in the Class of 2013 cohort. Of those, 38,413 were enrolled in comprehensive high schools. For the Class of 2014, the cohort numbered 38,151 with 32,597 enrolled in comprehensive high schools.

Table 2. Preliminary Cohort Graduation Rates Comparison 2012-13 to 2013-14

	Prelim. 12-13 Cohort	Prelim. 12-13 Graduates	Prelim. 12-13 Graduation Rate	Prelim. 13-14 Cohort	Prelim. 13-14 Graduates	Prelim. 13-14 Graduation Rate
Comprehensive High Schools	38,413	25,008	65%	32,597	24,988	77%
Options	5,800	679	12%	5,554	742	13%
Total	44,213	25,687	58%	38,151	25,730	67%

Several factors account for the decrease in the number of students included in the Class of 2014 cohort:

1. Declining enrollment trends in the district yielded a smaller first-time 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort for the Class of 2014, compared the Class of 2013. There were approximately 2,000 fewer first time 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the Class of 2014 cohort than the Class of 2013 cohort.
2. LAUSD has improved its ability to verify if students have re-enrolled at other public schools using data collected from independent charter schools and from the California Department of Education’s longitudinal student level data system (CALPADS), reducing the number of students previously counted as dropouts.

Preliminary graduation rates by subgroup will be released at a later date. School by school results are listed in Attachment A. For additional information regarding the preliminary graduation data, please contact me at (213) 241-2460.

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