As part of the IDOE's continuing effort to assist schools in ensuring that their graduation rate is as accurate as possible, a new series, *Managing your Graduation Rate* is launching today. This multi-part series, which will be published in upcoming issues of IDOE's Friday update, *IN the Know* and in the Accountability Moodle Community, will provide information to educate schools about cohort and the calculation of graduation rates. Please forward any questions to schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov.

Installment #1: Graduation Rate and the Graduation Rate Audit - How We Got Here

Graduation Rate History
Starting with the 2006 Cohort, the Indiana General Assembly tasked the Department of Education (DOE) with calculating the graduation rate for schools. The calculation of the State graduation rate, including valid reasons for exit, and applicable dates can be found in IC 20-26-13. This statute also tasks DOE with publishing the graduation rate by January 15.

Section 8002 of the Every Student Succeeds Act outlines the calculation of the Federal graduation rate, including valid reasons for exit and applicable dates, including the publication of the graduation rate prior to the end of the calendar year.

Graduation Rate Audit History
Prior to the 2017 Cohort, schools were selected for the mandatory graduation rate audit based on a formula that chose schools with the highest mobility rates. During the 2017 session of the General Assembly, this formula was eliminated in favor of auditing ALL high schools on a schedule of the DOE's choosing (IC 20-26-13-11(b)). Furthermore, IC 20-26-13-11(c) requires the DOE to return to the cohort, as a dropout, any student for whom the school does not supply documentation supporting the exit. Although not statutorily required, the DOE has traditionally held a voluntary graduation rate audit during the same time frame to allow schools to correct issues with the cohort.

Next Installment
Next week's installment will cover important definitions for understanding cohort and graduation rates.