

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Indiana State Board of Education

**FROM:** Office of Accountability, Indiana Department of Education

**DATE:** January 9, 2018

**RE:** 2017 Indiana Graduation Rate

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**Background on Cohort/Graduation Rate:**

Every school year after Pupil Enrollment (a count taken on October 1) is finalized, the Department utilizes the 9<sup>th</sup> grade roster for every school in the State and creates the cohort with an expected graduation year three school years after the current one. For the 2018 graduating cohort, the Department first created the cohort based on the Pupil Enrollment on October 1, 2014 (the 2014-2015 school year). Schools weekly submit either Realtime (RT), in the case of public schools, or Enrollment Mobility (EM), in the case of non-public schools. These submissions contain a list of all students enrolled in the school. If a student exits the school, the school notes that on the RT or EM report with the reason and date of the exit. These data are used by the cohort process to track students when they change schools. Exit reasons are grouped into two main categories, Dropouts and Mobility. Generally speaking, students reported with a Mobility exit code will be removed from the cohort (E.g., they moved out of State), and as such are no longer included in the school's graduation rate. It is important to note that not all the mobility codes recognized by the State are also recognized by the Federal calculation (E.g., "Missing"). Therefore, the State and the Federal graduation rates are slightly different, with the Federal rate always being lower since that calculation requires more students to stay in the cohort. Lastly, it is important to note that although a student may not have graduated with her class, she may still be working toward a diploma. Therefore, the sum of the dropout rate and the graduation rate will not equal 100%.

**Background on the overall Process:**

Students had until September 30, 2018 to meet the requirements for graduation and be counted as a four-year graduate. Schools had until October 5, 2018 to report students as graduates. Cohort is run nightly and schools can see their graduation cohort reports in Learning Connection. In mid October the Department began its statutorily required audit process as well as the voluntary audit for schools that identified data errors with their graduation rate. All schools, including those schools required to participate in the audit, were notified of the audit submission window. The online portal was open between October 10 and November 7, 2018 for schools to submit their documentation. All audits have been completed and the schools were notified of the results of the audit in November and December.

**Comparison of 2018 State & Federal Graduation Rate**

	State	Federal
<b>2018 Statewide Graduation Rate</b>	88.11%	87.23%
<b>2018 Statewide Non-Waiver Graduation Rate</b>	80.78%	79.97%
<b>2018 Statewide Waiver<sup>1</sup> Graduation Rate</b>	7.33%	7.26%
<b>2018 Statewide Dropout Rate</b>	5.18%	6.13%
<b>Public Schools Graduation Rate</b>	87.87%	86.96%
<b>Non-Public Schools Graduation Rate</b>	91.90%	91.46%
<b>Traditional Public Schools Graduation Rate</b>	91.44%	90.57%
<b>Charter Public Schools Graduation Rate</b>	40.08%	39.22%
<b>Choice Non-Public Schools Graduation Rate</b>	93.42%	93.04%

**Comparison of 2016-2018 Rates**

	2018	2017	2016
<b>State Graduation Rate</b>	88.11%	87.19%	89.07%
<b>Non-Waiver State Graduation Rate</b>	80.78%	80.10%	82.36%
<b>State Waiver Graduation Rate</b>	7.33%	7.09%	6.71%
<b>State Dropout Rate</b>	5.18%	5.61%	4.04%

<b>Schools with 100% State Graduation Rate<sup>2</sup></b>		
YEAR	# SCHOOLS	% SCHOOLS
2014	10	2.07%
2015	13	2.67%
2016	19	3.82%
2017	17	4.37%
2018	17	4.49%

<b>Public High Schools with Federal Graduation Rate ≤ 67%<sup>3</sup></b>		
YEAR	# SCHOOLS	% SCHOOLS
2014	36	9.05%
2015	43	10.59%
2016	39	9.68%
2017	39	9.73%
2018	37	9.32%

**State Graduation Rate Movement from 2017 to 2018**

Movement	# Schools
Decreased 5 percentage points or more	65
Increased 5 percentage points or more	91
Within +/- 5 percentage points	394

<sup>1</sup> #students earning waiver diploma/# students in cohort

<sup>2</sup> Table includes only schools with a cohort of at least 50 students.

<sup>3</sup> Table includes only public high schools to provide context of identification for comprehensive support under ESSA.  
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