



Maine SLDS Data Quality Training

° Just-In-Time °

*Understanding Maine's Use of the
Four Year Adjusted Cohort
Graduation Rate (ACGR)*

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Thank you!



Joining us today

- Richard Bergeron
 - Enrollment Consultant
 - (207) 624-6799
 - richard.bergeron@maine.gov



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Session Agenda

- Why has Maine moved to a new method for calculating the graduation rate?
- How does the new method differ from the old?
- A common misconception regarding “dropouts”.
- How does the graduation rate affect federal Adequate Yearly Progress status?
- How does this rate relate to the new Maine law requiring a 90% graduation rate by 2016?
- What can we do to improve our data?
- How to calculate your own rate
- Wrap-up



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Why a new rate?

- According to [34 CFR § 200.19](#), a state must calculate a “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate,” defined as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students that form the adjusted cohort for that graduating class.
- The new rate allows the USDOE to be able to compare grad rates from state to state.



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

The ACGR Formula

$$\left[\frac{\text{On-time graduates by year } x}{[(\text{first time 9}^{\text{th}} \text{ graders in year } x-4) + (\text{Transfers-In}) - (\text{Transfers-Out})]} \right] \times 100$$

- Additional information at:
<http://www.maine.gov/education/gradrates/gradratefaq.pdf>



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

How does the ACGR differ from the old rate?

- The new rate only counts students who graduate in 4 years, where as the old rate counted all students who graduated in a specific year (no matter how long it took to graduate).
- The new rate focuses on a single “cohort” of students – the group of students who entered 9th grade at the same time.



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Common Misconception

- “If a student is NOT counted in the graduation rate he/she is a dropout.”
- This is INCORRECT ([more info](#))
 - Only students with the following conditions are dropouts:
 - End Status codes: 19 (Expulsion), 21 (Discontinued schooling), 23 (Transfer to GED program), 25 (Moved, not known to be continuing), 97 (Unknown), 99 (Other)
 - End Status code 13 (Transfer to homeschooling), without a “Letter of Intent to Home School” on file with the Maine DOE
 - A student with an End Status code which indicates that the student is continuing, but does not have a new enrollment in the fall



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

How the ACGR Affects AYP

- Beginning with AYP determinations under §200.20 based on school year 2009–2010 assessment results, in order to make AYP, any high school or LEA that serves grade 12 and the State must meet or exceed—
 - (A) The graduation rate goal set by the State or
 - (B) The State's targets for continuous and substantial improvement from the prior year, as set by the State
- Beginning with 2009-10 graduation rate, rates must be reported disaggregated.



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

A Graduation Rate of 90% by 2016

- The Maine Legislature passed a law in early 2010 requiring that all public supported secondary schools achieve a graduation rate of at least 90% by the end of the 2015-2016 school year.
- A stakeholders group is currently working on the rules related to the calculation of this graduation rate.



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

What Can We Do Now?

- Train staff in the importance of data accuracy
- Be sure staff understand the importance of exiting all graduates properly at the end of school year.
- Keep a paper trail – requests for records.
- For the 2008-2009 school year, we were able to increase each school's grad rate by 8-12% by validating each student in the cohort.
- Be sure staff understand the implications of each Start and End Status Code



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Use of Start and End Status Codes

- You will no longer be able to use the “99: Maine Default” Start Status
 - Instead, select the appropriate Start Status for every student (especially grades 9-12)
- The “School Administrators Guide to Maine’s New High School Graduation Rate Calculations” indicates the implications of each Start and End Status.

– <http://www.maine.gov/education/gradrates/gradratefaq.pdf>



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

GradRateCalc Workbook

- A tool to help you calculate your own graduation rate
 - This report should not be submitted to MDOE
- http://www.maine.gov/education/enroll/grads/gradrate_workbook.xls



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Calculating Your Own Grad Rate

- Open the Grad Rate Workbook
- Enter the total number of students on the Cohort Report in cell D7
- Enter the total count of students from the validated Transfer-out Report in cell D18
- Enter the total count of students from the validated Transfer-in Report in cell D19
- Open the Completers List from 2008/09 and see if there are any early completers labeled as part of the 2009/10 cohort.
 - If so, add the count from this list to the count on the completers list labeled as part of the 2009/10 cohort.
 - Enter the total count of Completers from the 2009/10 Completers Report + and early graduates from 2008/09 into the Grad Rate Workbook in cell D20
- Your ACGR as calculated is in cell D22.



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Where to get information about reports related to the ACGR

- ACGR Information:
<http://www.maine.gov/education/gradrates/index.html>
- Use administrative and informational letters:
<http://www.maine.gov/education/edletters>
- The MEDMS webpage:
<http://www.maine.gov/education/medms>
- The SLDS blog: <http://blog.slds.me>
- Maine SLDS on Twitter:
<http://www.twitter.com/maineslds>



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov

Session Evaluation

- Thank you for joining us!
- Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation of this session.
- “Webinar Evaluation” in the DQ Training System (<http://moodle.slds.me>)



daniel.chuhta@maine.gov