

Shared Accountability Units (SAUs)

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.

Graduation Rates: Shared Accountability Units

Shared Accountability Units (SAUs): Students and their graduation outcomes are weighted based on the length of time they were enrolled in a given school during the graduation cohort.

- All schools serving 9th, 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade students are included. Schools serving only 9th graders, for example, are accountable for their proportional contribution to graduation rates
- Enrollment in quarterly reporting periods is used as a proxy for length of time a student was enrolled in a given school/location
- The school at which the student was enrolled at the end of the reporting period is awarded that reporting period for the graduation rate calculation
- **Numerator for the graduation rate calculation:** The total number of reporting periods during which students were enrolled at a specific school; Includes graduates only
- **Denominator:** The total number of reporting periods during which students included in the graduation rate were enrolled at a specific school; Includes both graduates and non-graduates
 - ✓ 4-year graduation cohorts can be enrolled in a maximum of 16 reporting periods
 - ✓ 5-year graduation cohorts can be enrolled in a maximum of 20 reporting periods
 - ✓ 6-year graduation cohorts can be enrolled in a maximum of 24 reporting periods

Cohort Establishment

Students Included in the Cohort

- A. First time 9th graders in the first of the four years. Student must meet both conditions:
 - A. Present in one of the PED's 4 enrollment windows as a 9th grader (40D, 80D, 120D, or EOY)
 - B. NOT present in any PED enrollment snapshot as a 9th grader in any prior year (40D, 80D, 120D, or EOY)
- B. Transfers In: Students new to public schools in subsequent 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years. Entering students must meet both conditions (1, and 2 or 3 or 4):
 - A. Student appears for the first time statewide in grades 10, 11, or 12 AND
 - B. Must enter as 10th grader in year 2 of the cohort span (40D, 80D, 120D, or EOY) OR
 - C. Must enter as 11th grader in year 3 of the cohort span (40D, 80D, 120D, or EOY) OR
 - D. Must enter as 12th grader in year 4 of the cohort span (40D, 80D, 120D, or EOY)
- C. Students who meet conditions A or B must have a minimum of 2 consecutive snapshots (one semester) in New Mexico public schools.

Students NOT Included in the Cohort

- A. Students are excused from the cohort who enter public education any time during or after the 9th grade and are misclassified at entry. Written documentation must be kept at the district, and reclassification must occur within one snapshot of the entry snapshot.
 - 1. Example: A student enters from out-of-state and parents declare the student to be in the 10th grade. Transcripts which arrive later show the student qualifies to be a 9th grader. This correction must occur within the first two snapshot windows for that student in order to reassign the student to a different cohort.
 - 2. Reclassified students must be reassigned to the appropriate cohort. In the previous example, the student would be an entering 9th grader in the subsequent cohort.
- B. Students do not belong to any cohort if they were pre-enrolled as a first-time 9th grader at the beginning of the cohort span but never attended
- C. Students who meet exemption criteria do not belong to any cohort (note that all require written documentation):
 - 1. Deceased
 - 2. Foreign Exchange: Present in the United States on a "J" Visa
 - 3. Transfer-Out: Left to a non-PED school, including an out-of-state, BIE, home, or private school
 - 4. Émigré: Left the United States by moving or was deported. Does not include military families on temporary duty, or US students studying abroad as part of an exchange program. These students qualify for Transfer-Out.
- D. Students who have already counted in a prior cohort as a non-graduate. The exception is that students will count for the current cohort where graduation in the 5th or 6th year will be acknowledged.
- E. Returning adult students that are H6 or higher in their re-entry year can be reclassified into a new cohort. For example, a student that dropped out during their H3 year (typically junior) and returns four years later is now an H7 based on their original cohort. This student has passed all opportunities to count as a graduate in their 4-year, 5-year, or 6-year rates and re-enters as a member of a new cohort based on their grade at re-admission.

Documentation of Student Mobility

- A. Districts are required to maintain written evidence of students who TRANSFER OUT, LEAVE THE U.S., or become DECEASED; definitions and requirements for written documentation are appended
- B. Districts will be audited at random by the State to verify documentation
- C. Written evidence must be kept for 5 years after the student's cohort year expires

EXIT REASON	DEFINITION	REQUIRED WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION ¹
Foreign Exchange	Student from a country other than USA attending a high school in USA as part of an exchange program. Must have "J" Visa.	Telephone conversation ² Email ² Copy of Visa
Left Country	Student moved or was extradited outside the country. Does not include students enrolled in Dept of Defense schools, and US foreign exchange students still enrolled in US schools (use <i>Exited to Degree-granting Non-PED School</i> for these students).	Telephone conversation ² Email ² Transcript request from receiving school
Deceased	Student died.	Telephone conversation ² Email ² Obituary
Transfer Out	Student enrolls in a private, charter, home, or BIE school that grants a standard diploma recognized by the State. The school may be in-state or out-of-state.	Transcript request from receiving school
Exit Out	Student exited to a school that does not grant state recognized standard diplomas, such as a vocational certification program, or GED. The school may be in-state or out-of-state.	Telephone conversation ² Email ²
Status Unknown	Student dropped out of school for work, military, or other reasons. Any student with unknown graduation status defaults to "dropout" status.	(No documentation necessary)
Completer	A student that completed all course requirements but did not pass all parts of the high school exit exam.	Results from NMHSCE or HSGA Course completion
Graduated	A student that completed all graduation requirements, and received a standard diploma, but was not reported to the State as a graduate in any snapshot.	Standard diploma ³ Other evidence of degree award

¹ Paper or electronic records must be maintained at district or school for auditing purposes. A minimum of one piece of evidence from the list provided must be kept.

² Qualifying communication must be from a responsible adult, not the student.

³ A New Mexico Standard diploma does not include GED, or Certificate of Completion. It does include students with disabilities completing requirements for a Standard Diploma as defined in NMAC 6.30.2.10, Section J (Career and Ability Pathways)

Graduation Cohorts: # Years and School Year Complete

	SY 2016-17	SY 2017-18	SY 2018-19	SY 2019-20	SY 2020-21	SY 2021-22
4 Year 2018-19 cohort, graduate 2021-22			9 th Grade			Graduated?
5 Year 2017-18 cohort, graduate 2021-22		9 th Grade				Graduated?
6 Year 2016-17 cohort, graduate 2021-22	9 th Grade					Graduated?

Note: Graduation rates are a lagging indicator so students who complete graduation requirements over the summer can be included. As such, 2021-22 graduation rates are reported for 2023 VISTAS.

Shared Accountability Units Example

- Juan was enrolled as a freshman at Thrive Academy at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. His father was deployed to a military base in Texas in November of his sophomore year. Juan contributes 5 of 11 total reporting periods, or SAUs, to Thrive Academy's graduation rate.
- Juan attended school in Texas until his family returned to New Mexico in February of his junior year. Enrollment during Juan's schooling in Texas contributes to neither the numerator nor denominator of the graduation rate calculation.
- Juan graduated from Riverwalk High school at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Juan contributes 6 of 11 total SAUs to Riverwalk's graduation rate.

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
SY 2018-19	Thrive	Thrive	Thrive	Thrive
SY 2019-20	Thrive	Moved mid-term	Texas	Texas
SY 2020-21	Texas	Texas	Riverwalk	Riverwalk
SY 2021-22	Riverwalk	Riverwalk	Riverwalk	Riverwalk

Graduation Rate Calculation

Note: Graduation rates are a lagging indicator to include students who complete graduation requirements over the summer

Definition of a New Mexico Graduate

- A. Student must receive a Standard Diploma, which includes the Career and Ability pathways.
- B. All requirements for the diploma, including successful completion of the all parts of the exit examination, must be met by August 1 of the terminal year of the cohort span.
- C. The student's graduation must be declared during the correct year, either by submission to STARS or by submitting to the online program *High School Cohort* prior to the closing date. Late submissions will not be honored.
- D. Non-Graduates: Students who are *Completers* or *Exit Out* are NOT considered graduates, but are important to capture for legislative mandates and policy decisions:
 - A. Completer: Students who completed course work but did not successfully pass all parts of the exit exam are awarded a Certificate of Completion. These students are eligible to receive a Standard Diploma for up to 5 years after their senior year once they pass all parts of the exit exam.
 - B. Exit Out: Students who exit to a setting that grants a credential other than a Standard Diploma. Typically, these include GED, military, or vocational programs such as auto mechanics. While the school may not know if the student successfully completed these programs, they should record the student's intent to enter and complete.

Which Schools Receive a Graduation Rate

- A. Schools with any combination of grades 9 through 12
 1. Feeder schools (i.e., 9th grade academy) will receive a rate
 2. Alternative high schools will receive a rate
 3. Charter and state-supported schools will receive a rate
 4. Off-site programs and treatment centers that are not considered schools will not receive a rate
- B. Schools that were in operation during early years of the cohort but closed prior to the publication year will receive a rate. However, schools that changed name or location during the cohort time span but continue the prior school's heritage will inherit the school's cohort members and receive a rate (i.e., a local charter that transitioned to state-chartered status).
- C. Schools with fewer than 4 student records will not receive a rate
- D. Districts will receive a rate compiled from all students who were ever enrolled in the district
 1. District rates include students in locally-authorized charter schools
 2. District rates exclude state-authorized charter schools located within their boundaries
 3. District rates include students in off-site programs that were not part of a rated school
- E. The State will receive a rate compiled from all students ever enrolled in state public education

Graduation Rates

- Graduation Rate Definition: The percentage of students who graduated with a New Mexico diploma of excellence within a given graduation cohort
 - 4 Year – 2018-19 Cohort, graduating 2021-22;
composed of students who began ninth-grade in SY 2018-2019
 - 5 Year – 2017-18 Cohort, graduating 2021-22;
composed of students who began ninth-grade in SY 2017-2018
 - 6 Year – 2016-17 Cohort, graduating 2021-22;
composed of students who began ninth-grade in SY 2016-2017
- Graduation cohorts are defined by the number of years since first enrollment in 9th grade and the school year in which the New Mexico diploma of excellence is obtained.

Graduate Rate Equation

Graduation rates are decimal numbers from 0.00 to 1.00

$$\text{Graduation rate} = \frac{\text{Number of SAUs for graduates}}{\text{Number of SAUs for graduates} + \text{Number of SAUs for non-graduates}}$$

Demographic Subgroups*

SortingNumber.Subgroup	Label; Coding Values/Procedures
1.All	All students
2.Female	Female students
3.Male	Male students
4.Hispanic	Hispanic students; Hispanic in Race 1, even if White in Race 1 as well *
5.White	White students; Caucasian in Race1 variable, Race2 variable is empty
6.Black	Black students; Black/ African American in Race1 variable, Race2 variable is empty
7.Asian	Asian students; Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander in Race1 variable, Race2 variable is empty
8.Native	Native students; American Indian or Alaskan Native in Race1 variable, Race2 is empty
9.MultiRace	Multirace students; values in both Race1 and Race2 variables are reported
10.FRL	Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch
14.SwD	Students with disabilities
16.EL	English Learners
18.Migrant	Migrant students; data for this variable were obtained through PED Title 1 Bureau (not STARS)
19.Homeless	Homeless students
20.Military	Students with a parent in the military, including active duty, National Guard, and Reserves
21.Foster	Students with foster placement; data for this variable were obtained through PED (not STARS)

*Prior to 2023, Hispanic was treated as a race category; from 2023 forward, Hispanic is treated as an ethnicity distinct from race

Data Dictionary, Grad Rate

Variable Name	Label	Values
LongitID	REA School/District ID Tracking Index	1 - 9999
DistCode	District Code	001 - 585
SchNumb	School Number	001001 - 585001
District	District Name	N/A
School	School Name	N/A
HS	High School	1 = yes, 0 = no
T1	Title 1 School	1 = yes, 0 = no
GradRate.4Y.1.All	Graduation rate: All students	0.00 - 1.00
Graduation.4Y.Sorting Number.Demographic Subgroup Example: "Graduation.4Y.2.Female"	Graduation rate: Demographic Subgroups	0.00 - 1.00
Grads.4Y.Sorting Number.Demographic Subgroup Example: "Grads.4Y.2.Female"	Number of graduate SAUs: Subgroups as listed on previous slide	Decimal numbers: School/District sum of SAUs
NonGrads.4Y.Sorting Number.Demographic Subgroup Example: "NonGrads.4Y.2.Female"	Number of SAUs for non-graduates: Subgroups as listed on previous slide	Decimal numbers: School/District sum of SAUs

Data Dictionary, Graduation SAUs

Variable Name	Label	Values
OutcomeYear	Outcome Year	YY + YY, i.e., 2122
DistCode	District Code	001 - 585
SchCode	School Code	001 - 999
SchNumb	School Number	001001 - 585001
LastLocation	Student Present at Location at Time of Outcome	Y or blank
StID	Student Identification Number	100000000 - 999999999
FirstName	Student First Name	N/A
LastName	Student Last Name	N/A
DOB	Student Date of Birth	MM/DD/YYYY
Grade	Highest Student Grade	9 - 12
Group.Sorting Number.Demographic Subgroup Example: "Group.2.Female"	Student Demographic Group	0 or 1
Entry9thGrade, Entry10thGrade, Entry11thGrade, Entry12thGrade	Student Entered School in 9th/10th/11th/12th Grade	0 or 1

Data Dictionary, Graduation SAUs (Continued)

Variable Name	Label	Values
Outcome	Outcome Code	Alphanumeric Code, i.e., WG
OutcomeDesc	Outcome Description	N/A
Graduated	Student Graduated	0 or 1
NonGrad	Student Did Not Graduate	0 or 1
SnapNum	Number of Snapshots Student was Enrolled at Location	1 - 24
SnapDenom	Total Number of Snapshots Student was Enrolled in NM Schools	1 - 24
SAUWeight	Student Accountability Units; Proportion of Student Snapshots Attributed to Location	0.00 - 1.00
SAUGrad	Student Accountability Units of Graduating Students (same as SAUWeight if Graduated=1)	0.00 - 1.00
SAUNonGrad	Student Accountability Units of Non-Graduating Students (same as SAUWeight if NonGrad=1)	0.00 - 1.00

Thank you

Please submit all questions and appeals to [New Mexico Vistas Questions and Appeals Form](#)

NM Vistas - School, LEA, and State
Data Questions and Appeal Form

