

Indicator 1 (Results): Graduation Rate

What is the purpose of Indicator 1?

Results Indicator: Percent of youth with IEPs exiting special education due to graduating with a regular high school diploma.

States must report a percentage using the number of youths with IEPs (ages 14–21) who exited special education due to graduating with a regular high school diploma in the numerator and the number of all youth with IEPs who exited special education (ages 14–21) in the denominator.

Include in the denominator the following exiting categories:

- a. graduated with a regular high school diploma
- b. graduated with a state-defined alternate diploma
- c. received a certificate
- d. reached maximum age
- e. dropped out

Data for this indicator are “lag” data. Examine the data for the year before the reporting year (e.g., for the FFY 2025 SPP/APR, use data from 2024–25).

Indicator Goal: The goal of Indicator 1 is to improve the graduation rate of students with disabilities. South Dakota has a gap between the graduation rate of students with and without disabilities.

Connections to other indicator results: To graduate, students must remain in school (Ind. 2: Dropout Rate). Creating and implementing a strong transition plan with appropriate supports for students (Ind. 13: Transition) may help to create a strong foundation for students to reach the goal of being college, career, and life ready (Ind. 14: Post-School Outcomes).

How and where do we enter district data?

Results for this indicator come from the student information system (SIMS)/Infinite Campus, under the Enrollment tab.

What is the submission timeline?

- Verify District SIMS/Infinite Campus data by the **second Friday in June.**
- The Appeal Window takes place during the Report Card Appeal Window.

How is this Indicator Calculated?

$\frac{A}{(A+B+C)} \times 100$ A: students with disabilities graduated with a regular diploma. B: number of students with disabilities that dropped out (moved not known to continue + dropped out + discontinued/completed IEP team mod/course reqs) C: Age out or maximum age. (not 4 year cohort)	Calculation Example 5 students graduated with regular diploma 1 student dropped out 1 student aged out $\frac{5}{(5 + 1 + 1)} \times 100 = 71.43\%$ SWDs graduated with a regular diploma
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To analyze my district data, where would I find the reports?

Your district's data can be found on the [SD STARS Special Education Exiter Report](#). Once logged in to the state longitudinal data system (SD STARS), you can access your district's exiter report, which provides a list of students who exited special education. It helps identify data quality concerns if the exit code from enrollment is different from the exit codes from special education. It also can be used to fulfill reporting requirements.

How do I improve my results?

LOOK AT:

- ✓ What factors led to students completing high school in four or more years? Were similar strategies and procedures in place for all students with disabilities?
- ✓ Is the most appropriate curriculum for each student being implemented?
- ✓ How can districts work with younger students to ensure that the proper course of study is being followed and necessary credits are being earned toward graduation?

Frequently asked questions

Is my district's data accurate?

Your data is taken from the information a district enters into SIMS/Infinite Campus. Double-check the accuracy of exit codes. For more assistance with data entry, visit the [Student Information Management System](#) website, by selecting "Student Data Collections Desk Guide" under the "Documents" dropdown (note, this guide is updated every year).

What about students who receive transition services?

The IEP team may determine that it is in the best interest of the student to continue with services and therefore students may not graduate in four years. For further guidance visit the [Graduation Requirements](#) and select "Students with Special Needs" and choose "Disabilities Policy" from the dropdown.

Remember:

Lag data is used for this indicator which means the data is a year behind in the reporting process. (Example: The 2022-2023 report includes 2021-2022 graduates.)

RESOURCES

1. SD DOE State Performance Plan webpage: <https://doe.sd.gov/sped/SPP.aspx>
2. Transition Services Liaison Project: www.tslp.org
3. National Dropout Prevention Center: www.ndpc-sd.org
4. SD Graduation Q&A: <https://doe.sd.gov/sped/documents/GraduationQA.pdf>