

Colorado Department of Higher Education

Questions and Answers from the April 2 COSPRA Meeting

- 1. What percent of records are missing under the new method? (Since we say 30% were missing under the old method.)**
 - a. We believe the rate of missing records is much smaller with this method, since we're essentially using SASID numbers all the way through. The only reason we would be missing any records is because of an inaccurate SASID. To reduce the error rate even further, DHE assisted in the writing of Senate Bill 53, [available here](#), which further accommodates data transition from K-12 to higher ed. We believe the missing record rate is under 5%, if not lower.

- 2. What's included in the graduating class the DHE is focusing on - is it just on-time graduates? What about five-year and six-year graduates?**
 - a. The DHE is using a graduate data file provided by the CDE. Here's what the CDE says about who's in the file:
"The graduate data CDE reports and shares with CDHE includes anyone who graduated or completed within a particular school year. So if a concurrent enrollment student graduated in year 5 this school year, that student would be included in the file provided to CDHE. If a recent transfer student graduated/completed this school year, that student would be included as well. Three-year graduates/completers through seven-year graduates/completers from the current school year would be provided as well."

- 3. Who is not included in the remediation? Can we get clarity around the students who are exempt?**
 - a. The state remedial education policy outlines who's exempt from remediation and this change in method will not change that. The policy is available here - <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/i-parte.pdf>, specifically section 2.02.01. And to further clarify, any graduates who enroll in out-of-state schools are not included.

- 4. Are ASCENT students included in the denominator?**
 - a. Please see answer to no. 2 above, specifically, "If a concurrent enrollment student graduated in year 5 this school year, that student would be included ... "

5. **Could you include districtwide summaries in the high schools report?**
 - a. Yes, the DHE will add those to the high school tables this year.

6. **What about a student who graduates, takes a year off and then returns to college and is assessed as needing remediation. How are those included in this rate?**
 - a. Please see answer to no. 2 above. If you do not feel this is responsive, let us know.

7. **Do you have a methodology sheet, something that lists who's included and exceptions to that?**
 - a. Here's the flow: We take the data provided by CDE, as outlined in the response to no. 2, and track those students to a Colorado public college or university to see who is assessed as needing remediation and who enrolls in remedial courses. We divide the number of students fitting either category, the remediation group, by the number of graduates we find enrolled in a state public college or university. For example, there are more than 50,000 students in the Class of 2011. Of those, 24,659 enrolled in a public college or university in the state. Of those, 9,862 needed remediation. 9,862 divided by 24,659 equals 39.9%.

8. **The out-of-state enrollment rate is based on data from the National Student Clearinghouse. Does that include private and for-profit schools as well as public schools?**
 - a. Yes, the NSC data captures 93% of all postsecondary institutions in the nation including public, private, and for-profit institutions.

9. **We're seeing more students taking the Accuplacer at earlier ages, such as in their sophomore year. How does that impact this new method? For example, if a sophomore takes the Accuplacer and is found in need of remediation, but the student does not go on to enroll in college, will that student's sophomore Accuplacer score be used to count the student as needing remediation?**
 - a. We only included assessments that were taken no later than 6 months prior to graduation so the college-ready measurement was relevant.