

Appendix A: Terms and Definitions for NGS

Charter School: A charter school authorized by a school district pursuant to Part 1 of Article 30.5 of Title 22, C.R.S., or an institute charter school authorized by the state charter school institute pursuant to Part 5 of Article 30.5 of Title 22, C.R.S.

Chronic Absenteeism: Chronic Absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10% of enrolled school days for any reason (excused or unexcused). The rate is the number of students who are chronically absent divided by the total number of students.

Course passage rate: The course passage rate is defined as the total number of ninth grade courses passed divided by the total number of ninth grade courses attempted. This rate is used to help measure outcomes from the implementation of the Ninth Grade Success Grant.

Data System: A system that school leaders and teachers use to obtain real-time access to integrated data concerning a student’s behavior, attendance, and course performance and allows for comparison of the data across demographic categories and student groups. This system must have the ability to transfer student-level data from middle school to high school and provide high school success teams and teachers with real-time student level data (e.g. grades, attendance, and behavior).

Dropout: In Colorado law, a student is coded as a dropout if they “leave school for any reason, except death, before completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent, and who does not transfer to another public or private school or enroll in an approved home study program”. Students who reach the age of 21 before receiving a diploma or designation of completion (“age-outs”) are also counted.

A student is not coded as a dropout if he/she transfers to an educational program recognized by the district, completes a high school equivalency or registers in a program leading to a high school equivalency, is committed to an institution that maintains educational programs, or is so ill that he/she is unable to participate in a homebound or special therapy program. [CDE Dropout Statistics FAQ](#).

Dropout Rate: The Colorado dropout rate is an annual rate, reflecting the percentage of all students enrolled in grades 7 to 12 who leave school during a single school year without subsequently attending another school or educational program. It is calculated by dividing the number of dropouts by a membership base which includes all students who were in membership any time during the year. In accordance with a 1993 legislative mandate, beginning with the 1993-94 school year, the dropout rate calculation excludes expelled students. [CDE Dropout Statistics](#).

The Dropout Rate Calculation:

Number of reported dropouts and “age outs” during the school year

Total number of students that were in membership in grades seventh through 12th grade at any time during the annual school year

Graduation Rates and Completion Rates

4-year and Extended-year Graduation Rates: The graduation rate is a cohort rate. When a student begins ninth grade, an Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG) is assigned; giving the year the student

should graduate if the student follows a four-year trajectory. High school students with the same AYG are treated as a self-contained cohort (graduating class). Regardless of whether it takes four years or up to seven years to graduate, they are always included in the graduate membership base (the denominator) of their AYG cohort. Upon receiving a diploma, a student is counted in the graduates total (the numerator).

The four-year graduation rate reflects the percentage of students from a given graduation class who receive a diploma within four years of completing ninth grade. Students who graduate in the following year are then added to the numerator and the five-year graduation rate is calculated. Students graduating who need two years or three years past their AYG to successfully graduate are added to the numerator for the six-year or seven-year graduation rates.

[CDE Graduation Statistics](#).

The 4-year Graduation Rate Calculation:

Number of students receiving a high school diploma within four years of completing 9th grade

Number of students beginning 9th grade four years earlier plus the number of transfers in and minus the number of verified transfers out

The 4-year Completion Rate Calculation:

Number of students who graduate plus the number who receive a high school equivalency diploma or designation of high school completion within four years of completing 9th grade

Number of students beginning 9th grade four years earlier plus the number of transfers in and minus the number of verified transfers out

Local Education Provider: Defined as a school district, a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) or the Charter School Institute created pursuant to article 5 of Title 22, C.R.S., or the state charter school institute created pursuant to section 22-30.5-503, C.R.S.

Ninth Grade On-track rate: The ninth grade on-track rate uses two data points. One is the number of credits that a student has earned and the other is the number of course failures. The on-track rate is defined as the number of students who have earned enough credits to be promoted to 10th grade and have 1 or fewer course failures divided by the number of ninth grade students.

- Students who have dropped out should be included in the calculation but students who have transferred to other schools or districts and students who are repeating 9th grade should not.

This rate is used to help measure outcomes from the implementation of the Ninth Grade Success Grant.

Small rural district: A school district in Colorado that the Colorado Department of Education determines is rural based on the geographic size of the school district and the distance of the school district from the nearest large, urbanized area, and that enrolls fewer than one thousand students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

- [Rural Definition \(PDF\)](#)

- [Rural and Small Rural Designation List \(PDF\)](#) (August 2023)

Success Team: A cross-disciplinary team of ninth grade teachers and support staff, which must include (to the extent practicable) at least one school counselor, school mental health professional, or school social worker (as described in section 22-15-109.5(5), C.R.S.).

Transition Programs: Transition programming addresses the transition from 8th to 9th grade and is a required component of the Ninth Grade Success program. The goal of the transition programs is to ensure a smooth transition for new 9th grade students and may include orientation, academic support, lessons, or activities that build essential skills, individual support for mental health or other needs, and exposure to high school and postsecondary planning. Comprehensive transition programs include summer programs as well as support throughout the 9th grade year.

Truancy Rate: The rate indicates the percent of full or partial days possible to attend that students were absent without an excuse. It is calculated by dividing the total days unexcused absent by the number of total days possible to attend. Spreadsheets of annual school-by-school truancy rates can be found on [CDE's Attendance Information webpage](#).