


# Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI)



## State of Michigan 2008 Cohort 4-Year & 2007 Cohort 5-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Reports

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# Table of Contents

## Documentation

Overview of Michigan's Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates .....	3
2008 Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rate.....	3
2008 Cohort Four-Year Dropout Rate.....	4
Reading the 2008 Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report.....	4
2007 Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates.....	5
Reading the 2007 Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report .....	5
Data Validation and Appeals Process .....	6

## Reports

2008 Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates for Local Education Agency (LEA) .....	8
2008 Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates for Public School Academy (PSA) .....	72
2008 Cohort Four-Year Dropout Rates for Intermediate School District (ISD) .....	81
2007 Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates for LEA.....	89
2007 Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates for PSA .....	154
2007 Cohort Five-Year Dropout Rates for ISD .....	163



## Overview of Michigan's Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates

To comply with the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001*, Michigan moved to an accountability system in which a graduation rate includes only "on-time" graduates who earn regular diplomas within four years of entering high school. This calculation meets the guidelines provided by the National Governors Association (NGA) Graduation Counts Compact and the United States Department of Education (USED) for calculation of such rates. As more and more states implement the cohort methodology standard, state-to-state comparisons will become more meaningful. The release of graduation rates for the class of 2008 marks the second time that Michigan has used a cohort four-year graduation rate.

The formula for the calculation of 2008 graduation rates is possible because school districts have been tracking the enrollment of individual students since those students first enrolled in the 9th-grade in the 2004-2005 school year and reporting that data to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). The gathering of this information at a statewide level allows CEPI to help districts adjust enrollments to reflect "transfers in" and "transfers out" of the district, as well as students who exit from the public education system itself, over the course of four years.

2008 marks the first year that new five-year graduation and dropout rates are calculated for students in the 2007 cohort. The graduation rate includes the students who were categorized as "off-track" at the end of four years and graduated in the fifth year with a regular high school diploma.

### **2008 Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rate**

The total number of students who were identified as first-time 9th-graders in fall 2004 formed the initial 2008 cohort. Students who transferred into the state, district, or building at any time during the four-year period were added to the initial group. For students who moved within the public schools, student records were updated to reflect the correct district and building location. These students were considered "transfers out" of the district/building they left and "transfers in" to the district/building they entered. Students who exited the public school system entirely (out of state, to non-public school, or home school) or became deceased at any time during the four-year period are considered "exempt" and removed from the cohort.

To calculate the 2008 cohort four-year graduation and dropout rates after transfers are accounted for, students are placed into one of four categories:

1. On-track graduated - completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less
2. Other completer - earned a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, other certificate, or reached the special education maximum age
3. Off-track (graduated & continuing) - completed high school with a regular diploma in more than four years, or did not complete high school in four years and are still continuing in school
4. Dropout - left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown

A student is counted toward the graduation rate of the final building or district that the student attended during the four-year period. "On-track graduated" is counted as the numerator and divided by the total count of all categories. The total of the categories is the 2008 Cohort Total. Students who transferred in are included as students with one of the four categories for that building/district and students who transferred out have been included in another public entity's rates, if the students have been located.

$$\frac{\text{On-Track Graduated}}{\text{2008 Cohort Total}}$$

**2008 Cohort Four-Year Dropout Rate**

There is no national standard for calculating cohort four-year dropout rates. Michigan has chosen to maintain consistency by using the cohort methodology recommended by NGA and USED to calculate this rate as well. A dropout rate is not equivalent to subtracting the graduation rate from 100 percent because that method would count students who are an "other completer" or "off-track continuing" as dropouts, which they are not. The 2008 cohort four-year dropout rate is calculated using this formula:

$$\frac{\text{Dropouts}}{\text{2008 Cohort Total}}$$

**Reading the 2008 Cohort Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report**

The 2008 cohort four-year graduation and dropout rate report includes data for the state, every district, and every building from which students graduate, and is divided into eleven columns:

**Table 1**

<b>Column Name</b>	<b>Column Definitions</b>
District/Building Name (Code)	This is the alphabetical listing, beginning with local education agencies (LEAs), public school academies (PSAs), and then intermediate school districts (ISDs) included in the report. The district-level data are identified in shaded rows. The buildings that comprise the district appear below the district name in non-shaded rows that are slightly indented.
First Time 9th Grade in Fall 2004	Total number of students who were identified as first-time 9th-graders in fall 2004, which was the group of students who initially formulated the 2008 cohort.
(+) Transfers In	Total number of students who transferred into the state, district, or building cohort at any time during the four-year period and remained there.
(-) Transfers Out & Exempt	Total number of students who transferred out of the district, building, or public school system cohort (out of state, to non-public school, or home-school) at any time during the four-year period and did not return. Deceased students are also exempt.
Cohort	Total number of students in the 2008 cohort for the state, for each district, and for each building after adjustments were made for transfers in, transfers out, and exempt students.
On-Track Graduated	Total number of students in the 2008 cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less.
Dropouts (Reported & MER)	Total number of cohort students who left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER; missing expected records).
Off-Track Continuing	Total number of cohort students who did not complete high school in four years and are still continuing in school.
Other Completer (GED, etc.)	Total number of cohort students who earned a GED, other certificate, or reached the special education maximum age.

Column Name	Column Definitions
Graduation Rate	The percentage, calculated as On-Track Graduated divided by the 2008 Cohort, of the total number of students in the 2008 cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less.
Dropout Rate	This is the percentage, calculated as Dropouts divided by the 2008 Cohort Total, of the total number of students in the 2008 cohort who left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER; missing expected records).

For many districts, the building totals do not sum to the district total. Buildings in which students who have been ordered by the court to attend are not included in the district's rate, only the building rate. This method prevents a district from being held accountable for the performance of students who would normally not be present in the district, while still allowing for accountability for the building that provides the public education. Students must also be present for at least 2 count dates (the September and February days that schools report attendance to the state for funding purposes) in order to be counted in a building rate. A student who is present for just one count date is only included in the district rate. Students who are claimed in a district, but were not present for any count days are only included in the state rate.

### **2007 Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rates**

2008 marks the first year that five-year graduation and dropout rates are calculated for students in the 2007 cohort. The graduation rate includes the students who were categorized as "off-track continuing" at the end of four years and graduated in the fifth year with a regular high school diploma. The new five-year graduation rate is calculated in the same manner as the four-year rate, with the addition of students who graduated in the fifth year (Off-track graduated) in the numerator. "On-track graduated" and "Off-track graduated" are the numerator and divided by the total of all categories (on-track graduated, off-track graduated, off-track continuing, other completer, and dropout). Transfers-in and out during that fifth year are accounted for as well. The total of the categories is the 2007 Cohort Total:

$$\frac{\text{On-Track Graduated} + \text{Off-Track Graduated}}{\text{2007 Cohort Total}}$$

The new cohort five-year dropout rate is calculated in the same manner as the four-year rate, with the addition of students who dropped out of high school in their fifth year. Transfers-in and out during that fifth year are accounted for as well. Remember, the 2007 cohort five-year rates count all students in the 2007 cohort at the end of five years; these rates are not just counting those students in the 2007 cohort who finished in the fifth year.

$$\frac{\text{Dropouts}}{\text{2007 Cohort Total}}$$

### **Reading the 2007 Cohort Five-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report**

The 2007 cohort five-year graduation and dropout rate report includes data for the state, every district, and every building from which students graduate, and is divided into eleven columns:

**Table 2**

Column Name	Column Definitions
District/Building Name (Code)	This is the alphabetical listing, beginning with local education agencies (LEAs), public school academies (PSAs), and then intermediate school districts (ISDs) included in the report. The district-level data are identified in shaded rows. The buildings that comprise the district appear below the district name in non-shaded rows that are slightly indented.
First Time 9th Grade in Fall 2003	Total number of students who were identified as first-time 9th-graders in fall 2003, which was the group of students who initially formulated the 2007 cohort.
(+ ) Transfers In	Total number of students who transferred into the state, district, or building cohort at any time during the five-year period and remained there.
(- ) Transfers Out & Exempt	Total number of students who transferred out of the district, building, or public school system cohort (out of state, to non-public school, or home-school) at any time during the five-year period and did not return. Deceased students are also exempt.
Cohort	Total number of students in the 2007 cohort for the state, for each district, and for each building after adjustments were made for transfers in, transfers out, and exempt students.
On-Track + Off-Track Graduated	Total number of students in the 2007 cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in four years or less, plus those who completed high school with a regular diploma in the fifth year.
Dropouts (Reported & MER)	Total number of cohort students who left high school permanently at any time during the five-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER; missing expected records).
Off-Track Continuing	Total number of cohort students who did not complete high school in five years and are still continuing in school.
Other Completer (GED, etc.)	Total number of cohort students who earned a GED, other certificate, or reached the special education maximum age.
Graduation Rate	The percentage, calculated as On-Track Graduated + Off-Track Graduated divided by the 2007 Cohort, of the total number of students in the 2007 cohort who completed high school with a regular diploma in five years or less.
Dropout Rate	This is the percentage, calculated as Dropouts divided by the 2007 Cohort Total, of the total number of students in the 2007 cohort who left high school permanently at any time during the five-year period, or whose whereabouts are unknown (MER; missing expected records).

**Data validation and appeals process**

The Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application (GAD) provided district staff the opportunity to view and request changes to graduation and dropout information on individual students. During the spring of 2009, districts' authorized users accessed the GAD to view their cohort members and requested: 1) changes to their exit statuses; 2) accountability re-points (changes which district or building is accountable for the student); 3) cohort year changes; and 4) linking of multiple students' Unique Identification Codes (UICs) where multiple codes existed for a single student. Exit status changes potentially resulted in cohort category changes for districts. Accountability re-points potentially resulted in another district or building being held accountable for a student. Cohort year change requests approved for certain students moved them from an incorrectly assigned cohort year to the

correct one. District authorized users submitting UIC linking requests were able to identify and correct instances in which multiple UICs had been assigned to a single student at some point during the 16 SRSD data collection cycles.

The data used to calculate the graduation rates are audited. After the exit status data (which determines the current status of a student) comes to CEPI, it is loaded into the GAD and made available for review by authorized individuals in a district. After they review the data, it goes through an auditing process that is completed by intermediate school district (ISD) auditors, as identified in the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) audit manual. After the audit is completed, any final requests for changes to student records are reviewed and approved or denied by an ISD auditor based on evidence provided to support the request. For example, if a school asked to change a student reported previously as a dropout to a transfer out of state, the school had to provide evidence of that student's enrollment in the new district. Without sufficient evidence, a school's request for a student change was not approved.

# State of Michigan 2008 Cohort 4-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

Final Results

District / Building Name (Code)	Totals				Cohort Status				Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
	First Time 9th Grade in Fall 2004	(+)Transfers In	(-)Transfers Out & Exempt	Cohort	On-Track Graduated	Dropouts (Reported & MER)	Off-Track Cont.	Other Completer (GED, etc.)		
Star International Academy (08636)	92	25	42	75	69	< 10	< 10	< 10	92.00%	5.33%
Summit Academy North (82938)	<b>105</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>84.31%</b>	<b>7.84%</b>
Summit Academy North High School (08634)	104	44	52	96	84	< 10	< 10	< 10	87.50%	5.21%
Three Oaks Public School Academy (61904) #	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Three Oaks Public School Academy (09304) #	13	0	11	< 10	N/A	< 10	< 10	< 10	N/A	100.00%
Traverse City College Preparatory Academy (28903)	< 10	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>33.33%</b>	<b>33.33%</b>
Traverse City College Preparatory Academy (09821)	< 10	2	0	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	50.00%	0.00%
Trillium Academy (82973)	< 10	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Trillium Academy (09094)	< 10	1	0	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	0.00%	0.00%
Universal Academy (82950)	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>76.00%</b>	<b>16.00%</b>
Universal Academy (08671)	36	6	18	24	19	< 10	< 10	< 10	79.17%	12.50%
University Preparatory Academy (82965) *	<b>124</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
University Preparatory Academy-High (09325) *	124	46	48	122	122	< 10	< 10	< 10	100.00%	0.00%
Voyageur Academy (82940)	<b>86</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>91.21%</b>	<b>6.59%</b>
Voyageur Consortium High School (09154)	86	42	41	87	82	< 10	< 10	< 10	94.25%	3.45%
Washtenaw Technical Middle College (81903)	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>80.53%</b>	<b>16.81%</b>
Washtenaw Technical Middle College (08483)	60	55	3	112	91	18	< 10	< 10	81.25%	16.07%
Wavecrest Career Academy (70907)	< 10	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>17.14%</b>	<b>40.00%</b>
Wavecrest Career Academy (09700)	< 10	54	0	54	11	14	29	< 10	20.37%	25.93%
WayPoint Academy (61903)	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>35.29%</b>	<b>41.18%</b>
WayPoint Academy (08800)	37	7	28	16	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	37.50%	37.50%
West MI Academy of Environmental Science (41904)	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>61.90%</b>	<b>28.57%</b>
West MI Academy of Environmental Science (08052)	24	4	9	19	13	< 10	< 10	< 10	68.42%	21.05%
Weston Preparatory Academy (82943)	<b>85</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>&lt; 10</b>	<b>53.85%</b>	<b>26.15%</b>

"< 10" indicates that there were less than ten or zero students in the cohort or in a status at the building for two count days or the district for one count day. "" indicates that the building/district has closed. "#" indicates that the building/district does not graduate students and students listed in the cohort graduate from a different entity. "N/A" indicates "Not Applicable" for this entity.

# State of Michigan 2007 Cohort 5-Year Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

## Final Results

District / Building Name (Code)	Totals				Cohort Status				Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
	First Time 9th Grade in Fall 2003	(+)Transfers In	(-)Transfers Out & Exempt	Cohort	On + Off-Track Graduated	Dropouts (Reported & MER)	Off-Track Cont.	Other Completer (GED, etc.)		
St. Clair County Learning Academy (08307) #	< 10	1	0	< 10	N/A	< 10	< 10	< 10	N/A	50.00%
Star International Academy (82941)	59	20	26	53	46	< 10	< 10	< 10	86.79%	13.21%
Star International Academy (08636)	59	20	26	53	46	< 10	< 10	< 10	86.79%	13.21%
Summit Academy North (82938)	110	50	63	97	78	19	< 10	< 10	80.41%	19.59%
Summit Academy North High School (08634)	110	44	65	89	77	12	< 10	< 10	86.52%	13.48%
Universal Academy (82950)	23	13	11	25	20	< 10	< 10	< 10	80.00%	20.00%
Universal Academy (08671)	23	9	12	20	17	< 10	< 10	< 10	85.00%	15.00%
University Preparatory Academy (82965) *	127	34	23	138	128	< 10	< 10	< 10	92.75%	6.52%
University Preparatory Academy-High (09325) *	< 10	138	0	138	128	< 10	< 10	< 10	92.75%	6.52%
Voyageur Academy (82940)	64	41	34	71	65	< 10	< 10	< 10	91.55%	7.04%
Voyageur Academy (08631) #	64	0	30	34	N/A	< 10	< 10	< 10	N/A	2.94%
Voyageur Consortium High School (09154)	< 10	66	0	66	64	< 10	< 10	< 10	96.97%	1.52%
Walter French Academy (33905) * #	45	0	32	13	N/A	13	< 10	< 10	N/A	100.00%
Walter French Academy (08324) * #	45	0	42	< 10	N/A	< 10	< 10	< 10	N/A	100.00%
Washtenaw Technical Middle College (81903) #	< 10	1	0	< 10	N/A	< 10	< 10	< 10	N/A	0.00%
Washtenaw Technical Middle College (08483)	< 10	1	0	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	0.00%	0.00%
Wavecrest Career Academy (70907)	< 10	34	0	34	21	< 10	< 10	< 10	61.76%	23.53%
Wavecrest Career Academy (09700)	< 10	24	0	24	18	< 10	< 10	< 10	75.00%	4.17%
WayPoint Academy (61903)	42	9	26	25	19	< 10	< 10	< 10	76.00%	24.00%
WayPoint Academy (08800)	42	9	27	24	19	< 10	< 10	< 10	79.17%	20.83%
West MI Academy of Environmental Science (41904)	20	12	11	21	< 10	13	< 10	< 10	33.33%	61.90%
West MI Academy of Environmental Science (08052)	20	11	12	19	< 10	11	< 10	< 10	36.84%	57.89%
Weston Preparatory Academy (82943)	71	30	38	63	45	17	< 10	< 10	71.43%	26.98%
Weston Preparatory Academy (08641)	71	28	40	59	45	13	< 10	< 10	76.27%	22.03%

"< 10" indicates that there were less than ten or zero students in the cohort or in a status at the building for two count days or the district for one count day. "\*" indicates that the building/district has closed. "#" indicates that the building/district does not graduate students and students listed in the cohort graduate from a different entity. "N/A" indicates "Not Applicable" for this entity.