

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District

INFORMATIVE
May 16, 2016

TO: Members, Board of Education
Michelle King, Superintendent

FROM: *Cynthia*
Cynthia Lim, Executive Director
Office of Data and Accountability

SUBJECT: 2014-15 CDE GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, the California Department of Education (CDE) will release statistics on the 2014-15 four-year cohort graduation and dropout rates. The calculation is based on data corrections that was submitted to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) through March 2016.

According to the CDE, LAUSD's graduation rate for all high school students in 2014-15 was **72.2%, an increase of 2 percentage points from the previous year of 70.2**. This rate includes all comprehensive and option high schools. Previously, LAUSD calculated a preliminary graduation rate of 74% in November 2015 that was published in the School Report Cards and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The final CDE graduation rate is lower than the preliminary graduation rate calculated by LAUSD due to data corrections and counts of students in the 14-15 cohort by the CDE.

How is the Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate calculated?

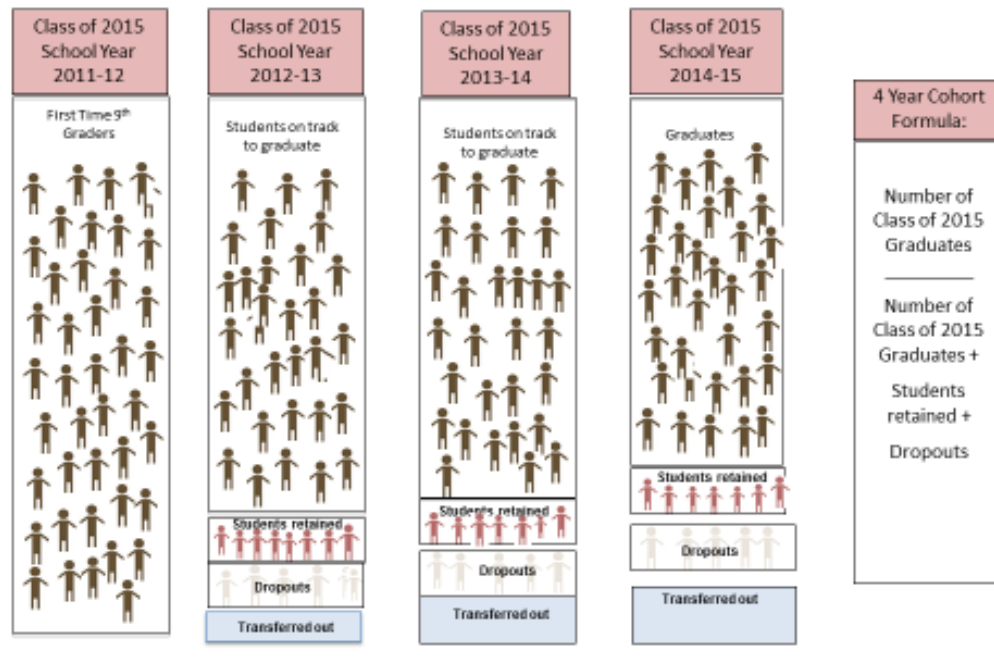
The CDE defines the cohort as 'the group of students that could potentially graduate during a 4-year time period (grade 9 through 12)', and it 'includes students who enter 9th grade for the first time in the initial year of the 4-years used for the cohort'. This cohort is then adjusted by:

- Adding students who later transfer into the cohort during grade nine (year 1), grade 10 (year 2), grade 11 (year 3) and grade 12 (year 4);
- Subtracting students who transfer out, emigrate to another country, or die during the 4-year period.

The CDE uses a unique student identifier to determine which students are part of the cohort. At the end of four years, the graduation rate is determined by dividing the number of graduates in the cohort by the number of graduates plus students who have dropped out, received a certificate of completion and students who remain enrolled for a fifth year.

Figure 1 illustrates the 2014-15 Four-Year Cohort Rate, which follows the same group of students over time, beginning with first time 9th graders in 2011-12.

Figure 1: Calculation of Graduation Rate
4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate
 (Follows Same Students Over Time)



Why are there different graduation rates between LAUSD and CDE?

There has been considerable confusion about graduation rates calculated by LAUSD and the official rate calculated by the California Department of Education (CDE). While both LAUSD and CDE use the same formula as illustrated above, the rates differ due to timing and the availability of datasets to track the movement of students.

LAUSD began publishing a four-year graduation rate for **comprehensive high schools only**, since 2006-07 in a push for greater transparency on how many students enter 9th grade and graduate four years later. With input from community advocates and stakeholder groups, LAUSD developed the methodology for tracking the progress of students over four years using its internal student information system. This calculation was not possible at the state level because there was not a statewide, student-level data base to track students over time. Additionally, LAUSD could only track the progress of students that were contained in LAUSD’s student information system.

In 2007-08, LAUSD published the first School Report Card, using the internally calculated four-year cohort graduation rate and has been publishing it every year since. The rate was calculated for comprehensive high schools only and excluded options schools and special education centers.

In 2009-10, the CDE calculated and published a four-year cohort graduation rate for the first time, using the newly implemented California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), a statewide, student-level database of all public school students. During the first years of implementation of CALPADS, CDE graduation rates differed widely from LAUSD graduation rates due to mismatches in the statewide student identifier numbers and inaccurate enrollment and leave codes. However, as the CALPADS system matures, LAUSD is able to leverage files available from the state and calculate graduation rates that are more closely matched to the CDE.

The CDE calculation yields more accurate data as they are able to match enrollment and leave records across the state whereas LAUSD can only track students in LAUSD data systems. If a student was reported as a dropout in LAUSD but re-enrolled in another California district, the CDE removes that student from the four-year cohort. Conversely, if LAUSD counted a student as a leaver but did not re-enroll in another California district, the student is counted as a dropout for LAUSD.

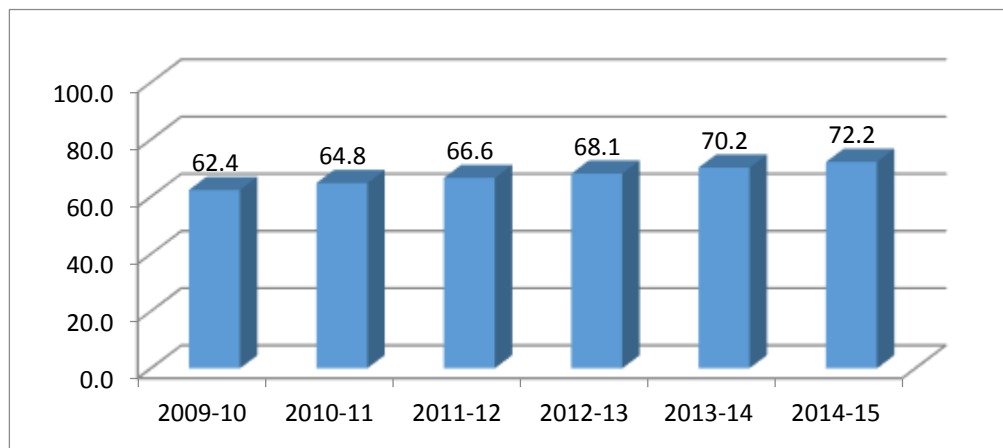
Why do we have two graduation rates?

The CDE graduation rate is typically released late, approximately one year after the end of the school year, e.g., data for the 2014-15 school year is being released now, close to the end of the 15-16 school year. To determine graduation rates in a timely manner, LAUSD calculates preliminary graduation rates earlier than the timeline used by CDE so that graduation rates can be included in the Annual School Report Cards and in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

2014-15 Graduation Rate

CDE began using four-year cohort graduation rates for accountability purposes with the 2009-10 school year. Since 2009-10, LAUSD's graduation rate has increased by nearly 10 percentage points, from 62.4 in 2009-10 to 72.2 in 2014-15. The rate for the district includes students in options and special education centers that graduated in four years. However, the CDE does not calculate a four-year graduation rate for individual option and special education center schools.

Figure 2. Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates, LAUSD



When examined by subgroup, graduation rates have increased for all major subgroups in LAUSD, compared to 2009-10. African-American students have increased by 13.3 percentage points and Latino students by 10.8 percentage points. Although there have been fluctuations in the last five years, English learners increased by 10.3 percentage points compared to 2009-10 and students with disabilities have increased by 13 percentage points.

In comparing change from the previous year, Latino students increased by 2.2 percentage points and African-American students increased by .6 points. Graduation rates decreased slightly for English Learners and students with disabilities. (Students are counted in the English Learner and student with disabilities subgroup if they were in that category any time during their four years in high school.)

Table 3: CDE Cohort Graduation Rates by Subgroup for LAUSD

CDE Cohort Graduation Rate								
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Change from Previous Year	Change from 2009-10
All Students	62.4	64.8	66.6	68.1	70.2	72.2	2.0	9.8
Latino	60.5	63.1	66.0	67.4	69.1	71.3	2.2	10.8
African-American	53.2	61.0	60.9	63.7	65.9	66.5	0.6	13.3
Asian	83.9	84.7	85.3	85.2	86.5	86.7	0.2	2.8
White	71.5	69.5	70.8	73.5	75.1	75.7	0.6	4.2
English Learners	40.0	48.7	46.7	47.3	50.7	50.3	-0.4	10.3
Economically Disadvantaged	62.1	64.2	66.5	68.6	70.4	72.3	1.9	10.2
Students with Disabilities	39.4	43.4	42.8	44.3	53.6	52.4	-1.2	13.0

Twenty-four schools had graduation rates in 2014-15 of 90% and above. These schools distributed across local districts and board districts and are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Schools with 2014-15 Graduation Rates of 90% or Higher

Loc Code	LD	BD	School Name	14-15 Cohort Graduation Rate
7751	E	2	ROOSEVELT SH M/S MAG	100.0
8518	S	7	HARBOR TCHR PREP ACD	100.0
8558	NW	3	PEARL SH JRNLS/CMM MG	99.1
8760	W	1	MIDDLE COLLEGE HS	99.0
8842	NW	3	SOCES MAG	97.2
8741	W	1	LACES MAG	96.9

Loc Code	LD	BD	School Name	14-15 Cohort Graduation Rate
8727	S	7	KING-DREW SH MD/S MG	96.5
7137	C	1	32ND ST USC PA MAG	95.8
8132	C	1	FOSHAY LC	95.7
8609	NE	6	ARLETA SH	95.2
8853	C	2	ORTHOPAEDIC HSP SH MG	95.0
8754	E	2	BRAVO SH MEDICAL MAG	94.6
7390	NW	3	VALLEY ALTERN MAG	93.9
8513	NW	3	NORTHRIDGE ACAD SH	93.9
8701	E	5	INTERNATIONAL ST LC	92.4
7725	E	5	MARQUEZ SH LIBRA	92.0
7775	E	2	TORRES HUM/ART/TECH	91.9
8880	NW	4	TAFT CHS	91.9
8898	NW	3	VALLEY ACAD ARTS/SCI	91.4
7657	S	7	CARSON ACAD ED & EMP	91.0
8738	C	2	DBM	90.5
3548	E	5	ELIZABETH LC	90.5
7716	NE	6	CHAVEZ LA SJ HUM AC	90.4
8606	E	2	TORRES ELA PA MAG	90.0

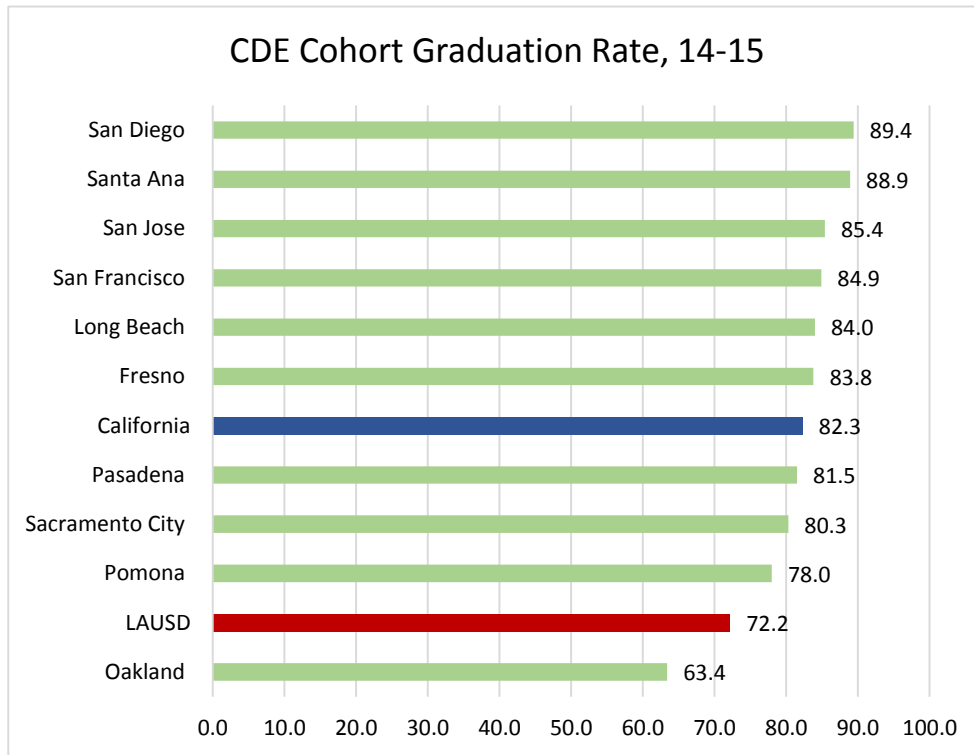
In the new state and federal accountability systems that will be implemented in 2017-18, schools with graduation rates below 67% will be identified for assistance and intervention. In LAUSD, there were eight schools with graduation rates below 67%, which are listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Schools with 2014-15 Graduation Rates below 67%

Loc Code	LD	BD	School Name	14-15 Cohort Graduation Rate
8210	C	2	BELMONT SH LA TCH PR	36.8
8710	C	2	EARLY COLLEGE ACAD	38.9
7666	W	1	HAWKINS SH RISE	58.3
8093	NE	6	SUN VALLEY SH	60.8
8921	E	5	LEGACY SH STEAM	61.8
7665	W	1	HAWKINS SH CHAS	64.2
7771	C	2	RFK AMBSDR GLBL LDSH	64.4
8866	E	5	MARQUEZ SH HPIAM	66.7

Compared to other urban districts in California, LAUSD's 2014-15 graduation rate of 72.2 was lower than the state average of 82.3 and lower than nine other urban districts. LAUSD's rate was higher than Oakland Unified at 63.4.

Figure 6. CDE Cohort Graduation Rates Among Urban Districts in California



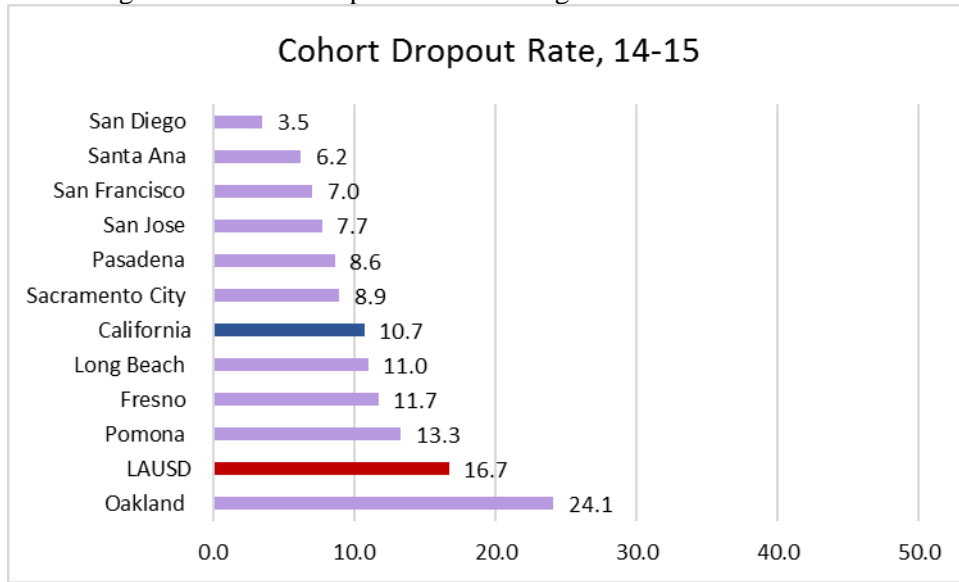
2014-15 Dropout Rates

Dropouts are reported in two ways by the CDE: a 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate and a 1-year Annual Adjusted Grade 9-12 Dropout Rate. The 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate uses the same methodology of the cohort graduation rate and follows a cohort of students that could potentially graduate during a 4-year time period (grade 9 through grade 12). Students who leave the district without a valid leave code and do not re-enroll in another California school district are counted as dropouts.

The 1-year annual adjusted dropout rate counts dropouts over the entire school year (2014-15). The number of students in grades 9-12 that left the district without a valid leave code and did not re-enroll in another California school district are divided by the single day enrollment count on Information Day (first Wednesday in October).

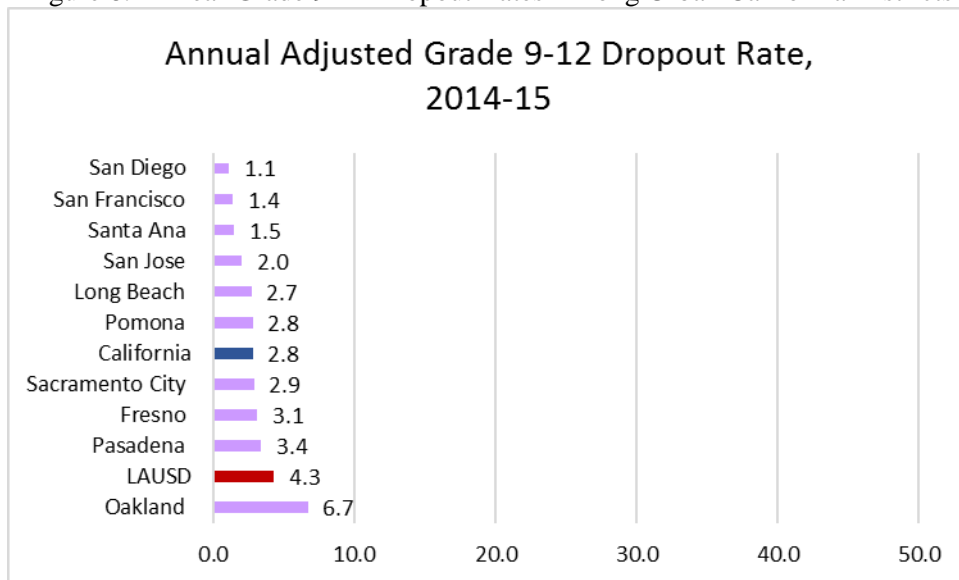
The Cohort Dropout Rate ranged from 3.5% to 24.1% among major urban districts. The state average was 10.7%. Compared to other urban districts in California, LAUSD's Cohort Dropout rate was the second highest at 16.7%. Oakland's Cohort Dropout rate of 24.1% exceeded LAUSD's.

Figure 7. Cohort Dropout Rates Among Urban California Districts



The 1-year annual adjusted dropout rate ranged from 1.1 to 6.7 among urban districts. The state average was 2.8. LAUSD's rate of 4.3 was higher than most urban districts with the exception of Oakland with 6.7.

Figure 8. 1-Year Grade 9-12 Dropout Rates Among Urban California Districts



Attachment A displays school lists with the CDE Cohort Graduation Rate for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years for comprehensive high schools. The CDE does not calculate Cohort Graduation Rates for options schools. Additional information can be found at the following website: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp> after May 17.

If there are additional questions, please contact me or Grace Pang Bovy at (213) 241-2460.