

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
Los Angeles Unified School District

INFORMATIVE  
April 8, 2013

TO: Members, Board of Education  
John Deasy, Superintendent

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

SUBJECT: 2011-12 GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES

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This informative provides statistics on the four year cohort graduation rate for the 2011-12 school year based on two different sources: LAUSD's calculation and the California Department of Education's (CDE) calculation.

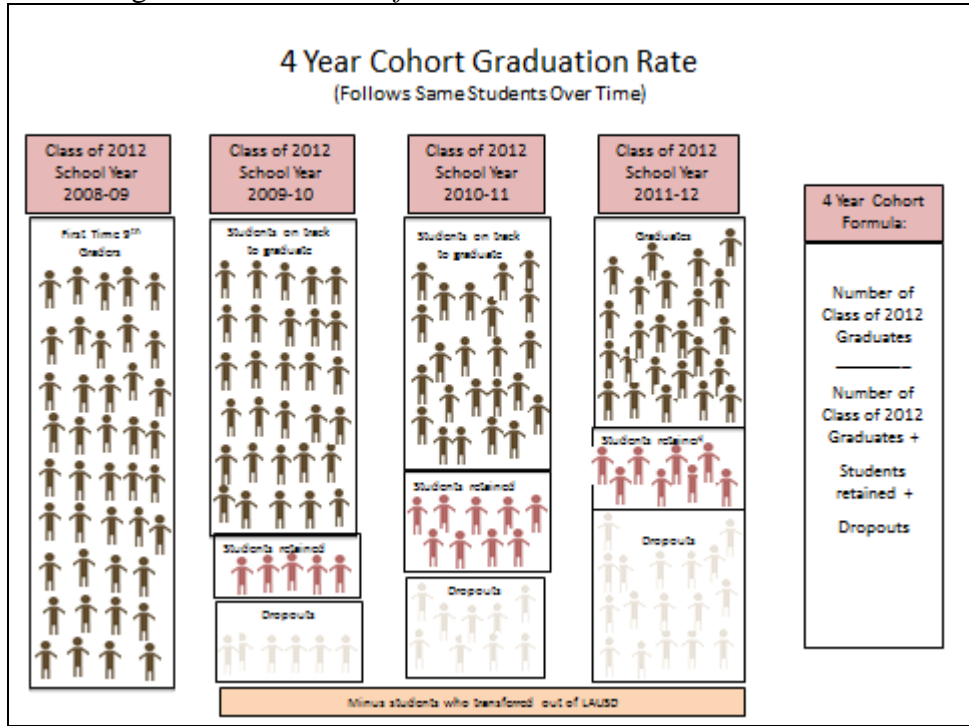
- o LAUSD's final graduation rate for 2011-12 is **65%, an increase of three percentage points from the previous year.** This calculation includes comprehensive high schools and span schools only and is based on data captured in the District's Student Information System (SIS).
  
- o The CDE's calculation of the 2011-12 graduation rate is **66.2%, an increase of one percentage point from the previous year.** The calculation is based on data that was submitted to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and includes all high school students. The CDE will be releasing this data to the public on April 9, 2013. **This information is embargoed until the state release.**

**Calculation of the Cohort Graduation Rate**

The state of California is converting to the use of a four-year cohort graduation rate for more accurate reporting. Both LAUSD and CDE use similar steps in calculating the graduation rate. The cohort graduation rate uses a unique student identifier to determine first time 9<sup>th</sup> graders, then tracks these students to determine which students graduated four years later. Students who transferred and re-enrolled in another school are subtracted from the cohort and students who transfer in are added to the cohort. At the end of four years, the graduation rate includes the number of students who are in the cohort and the number of students that received a diploma.

Figure 1 illustrates the Four-Year Cohort Rate, which follows the same group of students over time, beginning with first time 9th graders in 2008-09. In each successive year, students who transfer out of LAUSD are taken out of the cohort. Students who transfer into LAUSD are added to the cohort. Students who dropped out or are still actively enrolled remain in 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: *Illustration of Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate*



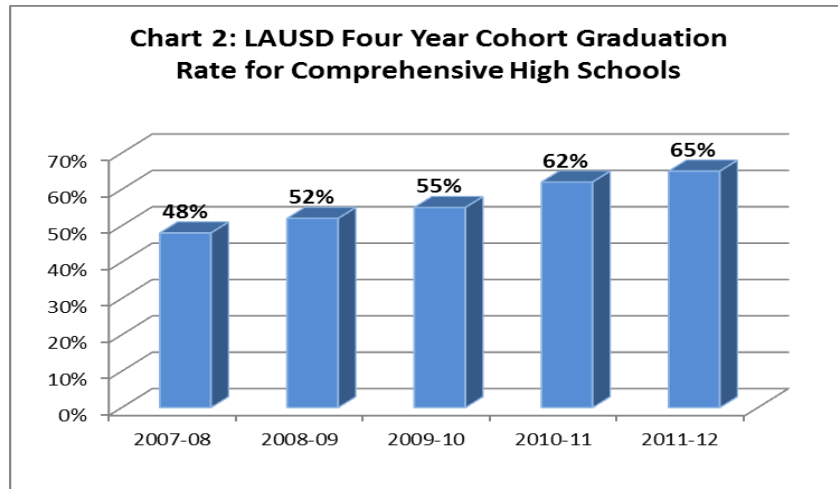
**LAUSD Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate**

LAUSD has been publishing a four-year graduation rate for comprehensive high schools since the 2007-08 for use on the School Report Card and Performance Meter. The rate is calculated for comprehensive high schools only and excludes options schools and special education centers.

Although the state has begun to use the same calculation, the CDE graduation rate is typically released late, approximately one year after the end of the school year, e.g., data for the 2011-12 school years is being released now, as we approach the end of the 2012-13 school year. To determine graduation rates in a timely manner, LAUSD calculates graduation rates earlier than the timeline used by CDE.

In September 2012, LAUSD released a preliminary four-year cohort graduation rate of 64% based on data collected on June 20, 2012. The final cohort graduation rate is 65% and includes summer 2012 graduates and any corrections schools may have made in graduation coding as of October 2012.

LAUSD’s four-year graduation rate has increased from 48% in 2007-08 to 65% in 2011-12, as displayed in Chart 2.



### LAUSD's Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Subgroups

When examined by ethnicity, preliminary graduation rates were highest for Asian and White students at 78% and 71% respectively and lowest for African-American students at 53%. Less than 30% of English Learners graduated in four years in 2012, however, 74% of reclassified English Learners graduated in four years. Economically disadvantaged students had a preliminary graduation rate of 66%.

Compared to the previous year's cohort graduation rate, Latino and White students increased graduation rates, according to the preliminary data. Asian students decreased and African-American students maintained the 53% graduation rate. While Economically Disadvantaged students and students with disabilities increased graduation rates, English Learners and reclassified English Learners decreased, compared to the final cohort rate for last year.

Table 3: *Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate by Subgroups*

	10-11 Final	11-12 Final	Diff.
All Students	62	65	+3
Latino	57	65	+8
African-American	53	56	+3
Asian	82	78	-4
White	67	72	+5
English Learners	39	31	-8
Reclassified English Learners	76	80	+4
Economically Disadvantaged	60	68	+8
Students with Disabilities	42	50	+8

## **CDE Cohort Graduation Rate for 2011-12**

The CDE is reporting a cohort graduation rate based on student level data collected through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). The CDE uses the same methodology as LAUSD; first time 9<sup>th</sup> graders are counted and followed for the next four years. Using the CALPADS dataset, the CDE is able to match student records across the state to determine dropouts. If a student was reported as a dropout in LAUSD but re-enrolled in another California district, the CDE removed that student from the four year cohort. For this reason, the CDE calculation will differ from the LAUSD calculation.

The calculation of a four-year cohort graduation rate at the state level is a relatively new process that is still being refined at the state level and among districts. The CDE continues to make adjustments to the defined four-year cohorts based on enrollment and leave dates of students. Districts are constantly making changes to enrollment and leave dates for students that are submitted to the state.

The CDE graduation rate is useful to compare the graduation rates of LAUSD to other urban districts in California. LAUSD's 2011-12 graduation rate of 66.2% was lower than the state average and nine other urban districts in California. The percentage of students in the 2011-12 cohort still enrolled for a fifth year was 12.6% for LAUSD, higher than other urban districts with the exception of Oakland with 14.1% still enrolled.

Table 6: *CDE Cohort Graduation Rates Among Urban Districts in California*

School District	2010-11 Cohort Grad Rate	2011-12 Cohort Grad Rate	Increase from Previous Year	2010-11 Still Enr	2011-12 Still Enr
San Diego Unified	85.3	86.9	1.6	5.8	4.2
Santa Ana Unified	82.6	85.2	2.6	3.3	3.5
San Jose Unified	84.1	84.0	-0.1	8.0	7.2
San Francisco Unified	81.8	82.2	0.4	7.5	7.6
Long Beach Unified	78.3	80.2	1.9	5.5	5.9
Sacramento City Unified	74.6	79.8	5.2	7.2	8.5
Pasadena Unified	76.2	78.7	2.5	10.7	7.9
California	77.1	78.5	1.4	7.4	7.5
Pomona Unified	77.1	77.1	0.0	5.1	6.2
Fresno Unified	73.4	74.6	1.2	8.2	8.4
LAUSD	64.8	66.2	1.4	12.3	12.6
Oakland Unified	58.4	58.9	0.5	11.9	14.1

When disaggregated by subgroups, Asian and White students had the highest graduation rates in LAUSD and across the state. The same pattern was observed across urban districts in California. In LAUSD, graduation rates for Latino students was 65.5% compared to the statewide average of 73.2%. Among African-American students, LAUSD's rate was 60.6% compared to the state

average of 65.7%. White students in LAUSD had the lowest graduation rate (70.7%) compared to the state average and ten other urban districts. Asian student in LAUSD had a graduation rate of 85.2%, higher than Fresno, Oakland and Pasadena but below the state average of 91%.

Table 7: 2011-12 CDE Cohort Graduation Rates by Ethnicity

School District	All Students	Latino	Afr. Am.	White	Asian
San Diego Unified	86.9	80.2	83.9	93.8	92.1
Santa Ana Unified	85.2	85.1	73.3	81.0	92.6
San Jose Unified	84.0	75.4	86.8	90.6	96.1
San Francisco Unified	82.2	67.5	70.8	82.4	89.7
Long Beach Unified	80.2	74.9	79.6	89.4	87.0
Sacramento City Unified	79.8	75.2	69.6	79.3	89.6
Pasadena Unified	78.7	77.9	76.7	86.6	78.6
California	78.5	73.2	65.7	86.4	91.0
Pomona Unified	77.1	75.0	82.6	81.9	90.7
Fresno Unified	74.6	71.1	70.7	82.5	81.8
LAUSD	66.2	65.5	60.6	70.7	85.2
Oakland Unified	58.9	52.1	53.2	78.4	78.7

English learners and students with disabilities in LAUSD had lower graduation rates than the state average and most other urban district. The graduation rate English Learners was 46.1%, compared to 61.6% across the state. For students with disabilities, LAUSD's graduation rate was 42.1%, compared to 60.8 statewide.

Table 8: 2011-12 CDE Cohort Graduation Rates by Subgroup

School District	All Students	English Learners	Students with Disabilities	Socio-Econ. Dis.
San Diego Unified	86.9	63.9	54.3	82.5
Santa Ana Unified	85.2	73.8	65.8	85.2
San Jose Unified	84.0	65.6	64.9	74.5
San Francisco Unified	82.2	67.9	64.4	80.3
Long Beach Unified	80.2	59.1	56.0	80.6
Sacramento City Unified	79.8	75.6	62.7	80.3
Pasadena Unified	78.7	52.5	65.4	79.3
California	78.5	61.6	60.8	72.7
Pomona Unified	77.1	64.2	61.6	77.4
Fresno Unified	74.6	66.0	45.7	73.0
LAUSD	66.2	46.1	42.4	66.1
Oakland Unified	58.9	45.7	41.5	57.7

## Dropouts

In the years prior to the use of the Cohort Graduation Rate, the state used a four-year derived dropout rate which estimated the number of dropouts over four years using a single year of data. The Four-Year Derived rate is no longer in use. Dropout rates are now calculated as a Cohort Dropout rate (the number of students who dropped out of the cohort over the four year period or did not graduate in four years) or a One Year Dropout rate (the number of students in grades 9-12 who drop out in a one year period). Year to year fluctuations may be due to inconsistency of data from year to year as the state is adjusting the calculations in the statewide database.

The Cohort Dropout Rate ranged from 6.2% to 25.5% among major urban districts. Compared to other urban districts in California, LAUSD's Cohort Dropout rate was the second highest at 20.3%. Oakland's cohort dropout rate of 25.5% exceeded LAUSD's.

The statewide average for the one year dropout rate was 4% in 2011-12. LAUSD was above the state average with a one year dropout rate of 6.1%.

Table 9: *Cohort Dropout Rates and One Year Dropout Rates*

	Cohort Dropout Rate		One Year Dropout Rate	
	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
San Diego Unified	6.3%	6.2%	1.9%	2.0%
San Jose Unified	7.5%	8.8%	2.4%	2.6%
San Francisco Unified	10.6%	10.0%	3.2%	4.0%
Santa Ana Unified	13.4%	10.5%	3.6%	2.7%
Sacramento City Unified	18.0%	11.5%	2.9%	1.3%
Long Beach Unified	14.8%	12.7%	3.4%	5.5%
Pasadena Unified	13.0%	13.0%	6.2%	5.5%
California	14.7%	13.2%	4.2%	4.0%
Fresno Unified	16.6%	15.1%	6.2%	5.9%
Pomona Unified	17.6%	16.5%	4.5%	4.3%
LAUSD	22.6%	20.3%	6.1%	6.1%
Oakland Unified	28.1%	25.5%	8.8%	8.5%

Attachment A displays school lists with the CDE Cohort Graduation Rate and LAUSD's Final Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates for the 2011-12 school year. Additional information can be found at the following website after April 9: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>.

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

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