



4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate vs. Graduation and Completion Index

	4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate¹	Graduation and Completion Index (GCI)
Purpose	One of the 5 required indicators under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that is used to identify schools for support and improvement. Information must be published on the School Report Card (ESSA §1111(h)(1)(C)(iii)(II)). Also known as the Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI)	One of the 9 School Quality Indicators currently recognized by the Virginia Board of Education; used to calculate state accreditation. Information is published on the School Report Card (8VAC20-131-270).
Description	A high school graduation rate that accounts for the percentage of students in a 9 th grade cohort who graduate with a regular diploma within four years of entering high school. This includes summer graduates.	A high school graduation rate that includes weighted points for diploma graduates, recipients of high school equivalency credentials approved by the Board, students not graduating but still in school, and students earning certificates of program completion each year, regardless of when those students entered grade 9.
Diplomas and Certificates included in Calculation	<p>Regular High School Diploma: (A) means the standard high school diploma awarded to the preponderance of students in the State that is fully aligned with State standards, or a higher diploma, except that a regular high school diploma shall not be aligned to the alternate academic achievement standards described in section 1111(b)(1)(E); and (B) does not include a recognized equivalent of a diploma, such as a general equivalency diploma, certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or similar lesser credential.</p> <p>In Virginia, this includes Advanced Studies and Standard Diplomas.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard Diploma: a student must earn at least 22 standard credits and 5 verified credits; or Advanced Studies Diploma: a student must earn at least 26 standard credits and 5 verified credits. 2. Applied Studies Diploma: available to students identified as having a disability who complete the requirements of their individualized education programs (IEPs) and meet certain requirements prescribed by the Board pursuant to regulations, but do not meet the requirements for any named diploma. 3. General Educational Development Certificates (GED): students must meet requirements outlined in 8VAC20-360-10 4. Certificate of Program Completion: available to students who complete prescribed programs of studies defined by a local school board but who do not qualify for diplomas.

¹ The federal Every Student Succeeds act does allow for extended year adjusted cohort graduation rates of 5, 6, or 7 years.



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Calculation Also Includes	Students who are incarcerated and the facility does not have or provide a school or educational program that offers a regular high school diploma	Students classified as Carry-over, Sliders, Dropout, Unconfirmed or long-term absent
Calculation Excludes	Students who are deceased, transferred out, or transfer to a prison or juvenile facility that provides a school or educational program that offers a regular high school diploma. Dropouts, Carry-over, and Sliders do not apply.	Students who are Incarcerated, deceased, or transferred out.
Calculation	$\frac{\text{\# Cohort Members Earning a Regular High School Diploma}}{(\text{\# of 1}^{\text{st}} \text{ time 9}^{\text{th}} \text{ graders entering in the cohort}) + (\text{Transfers In}) - (\text{Transfers out} + \text{deceased})}$	$\frac{(\text{\# of adjusted and carry-over diplomas} \times 1) + (\text{\# of adjusted and carry-over GEDs} \times .75) + (\text{\# of adjusted and carry-over Certificates of Completion} \times .25) + (\text{\# of adjusted and carry-over students that remain active} \times .70) + (\text{\# of dropouts, unconfirmed, and long-term absent students} \times 0)}{(\text{Total number of students in the adjusted cohort}) + \text{carry-over students}}$

Definitions	<p>Carry-over students: Members of a previous cohort and remained in school after their on-time graduation year to complete high school.</p> <p>Sliders: Special education or EL students who do not graduate with their original cohort. These students have educational plans in place that allow them more time to graduate.</p> <p>Dropout: as discontinued schooling and has not earned a diploma, GED, or certificate of completion. The student is not enrolled in another public school, private school, or approved education program; is not temporarily absent due to suspension or illness; and is not deceased.</p> <p>Unconfirmed: student whose records were properly reported to the state but whose status is inconclusive. The state does not have evidence that the student graduated, earned a GED, transferred to another public school, private school, or approved education program; or dropped out of school.</p> <p>Transferred into the federal cohort: a student enrolls in a high school after September 30 of the entering cohort’s first year in high school, up to and including in grade 12.</p> <p>Transferred out of the federal cohort: a student leaves a high school and enrolls in another high school or in an educational program from which the student is expected to receive a regular high school diploma or State-defined alternate diploma</p> <p>Transfer (State): at the <i>beginning</i> of the school year if 20 or fewer hours of instruction per course have been completed; <i>during</i> the school year if more than 20 hours of instruction per course has been completed as defined by 8VAC20-131-60</p>
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