

**CALCULATION OF OUTCOMES 3 AND 4:
GRADUATION AND COMPLETION RATES OF STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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Background

As part of the Modified Consent Decree, the Independent Monitor requires that schools provide accurate graduation and non-standard exit data for students with disabilities. Specifically, in the 2004-05 year-end report, the Independent Monitor stated:

For the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years, I will be unable to determine the District's performance on Outcomes 3 (Graduation) and 4 (Completion) unless the District provides my office with a student-level report from the principal of each comprehensive high school on the number of special education graduates.

As a result, the Program Evaluation and Research Branch (PERB) initiated a data collection effort in which comprehensive high schools were required to validate individual student level graduation, completion, and other non-standard exit data for grade 12 students with disabilities enrolled in December of the 2004-05 school year.

For grade 12 students with disabilities who were not enrolled in comprehensive high schools (options schools, special education centers), fall survey data was used to determine the number of IEP diplomas and certificates of completion. The number of grade 12 students with disabilities enrolled in December of the 2004-05 school year served as the denominator for these schools.

Calculations

In determining LAUSD's Outcome 3 performance for 2004-05, PERB calculated Outcome 3 and 4 performance based on the methodology established by the Office of the Independent Monitor. It used combined individual student data from principal verified lists and aggregate counts from fall survey data.

Outcome 3 calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Grade 12 SWDs receiving a diploma (verified by comprehensive high school principal) + \text{Number of IEP graduates reported in the fall surveys of other schools with grade 12 SWDs}}{\text{Grade 12 SWDs enrolled December 2, 2005 excluding students with L}^3, \text{L}^4 \text{ and L}^5}$$

PERB used these same data combined with annual dropout files to calculate the completion rates for Local Districts and LAUSD.

Outcome 4 calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Grade 12 SWDs receiving a diploma (as verified by principals of comprehensive high schools)} + \text{Number of IEP graduates and certificates of completion reported in the fall survey (for other schools with grade 12 SWDs)}}{\text{All SWDs in the numerator plus students grades 7 - 12 dropping out the 2005-06 school year}}$$

Results

This methodology for 2004-05 resulted in the following Outcome 3 performance for LAUSD and its eight Local Districts. Attachment A provides Outcome 3 data for individual schools.

District	Number of Grade 12 SWDs with Diplomas	Total Number of Grade 12 SWDs	Outcome 3 Percentage
Local District 1	359	753	47.7%
Local District 2	312	528	59.1%
Local District 3	340	711	47.8%
Local District 4	239	370	64.6%
Local District 5	211	507	41.6%
Local District 6	131	206	63.6%
Local District 7	143	366	39.1%
Local District 8	239	563	43.2%
LAUSD	1,974	3,996	49.4%

This methodology for 2004-05 resulted in the following Outcome 4 performance for LAUSD and its eight Local Districts. Attachment B provides Outcome 4 data for individual schools.

District	Number of SWDs with Diplomas	Number of SWDs with Certificates of Completion	Number of SWDs Aging Out	Number of SWDs Completing High School plus Grade 7-12 Dropouts	Outcome 4 Percentage
Local District 1	359	94	32	564	86.0%
Local District 2	312	41	19	437	85.1%
Local District 3	340	60	37	608	71.9%
Local District 4	239	19	6	367	71.9%
Local District 5	211	31	21	381	69.0%
Local District 6	131	12	7	197	76.1%
Local District 7	143	50	26	308	71.1%
Local District 8	239	43	29	417	74.6%
LAUSD	1,974	350	177	3,279	76.3%

Considerations

For both Outcome 3 and Outcome 4, PERB cross referenced the graduation and completion data validated by schools with annual dropout survey data. In some cases, principals added students to the lists they received. In these cases, PERB included all of these students in the denominator and in the numerator where appropriate, for the Outcome 3 calculation. In other cases, PERB found inconsistencies in the school-validated data that made problematic the calculation of Local District and LAUSD graduation rates. For example:

- Data for eight non-comprehensive, non-diploma granting high schools indicated graduating 59 students in 2004-05; upon contacting each school to verify the data entered, PERB updated these students to reflect their receipt of a certificate of completion rather than diploma.
- Data for 21 students identified as having aged out showed that only four were 22 or old as of September 30, 2005; PERB adjusted the non-standard exit data for the other 17 cases to indicate they had not aged out.
- Data for Granada Hills High School were made problematic due to fact that CASEMIS for the large charter school were not available at the time of the comprehensive high school data collection. Further, although 15 IEP graduates were reported in the fall survey data, only 5 grade 12 students with disabilities in 2004-05 were reported to the state.
- Data for seven small options schools reported graduating more students with disabilities than were enrolled in Grade 12 in December 2004.

To mitigate these identified data issues, PERB excluded Granada Hills High School data and data from the seven small, options schools that reported more special education graduates than Grade 12 special education students enrolled. This decision excludes 50 students from the numerator and 31 students from the denominator.

As agreed, data for the 2005-06 school year will be drawn from principal-verified lists for all schools with grade 12 students with disabilities (including comprehensive high schools, options schools, and special education schools).