

Thomas Obermeyer

From: Corazza, Peggy (EED) [peggy.corazza@alaska.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 09, 2010 2:45 PM
To: Thomas Obermeyer
Subject: Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate information
Attachments: Graduation Rate Fact Sheet.doc; Dropout Rate Fact Sheet.doc

Thomas,

As promised I have attached the Fact Sheets that we discussed. I find them most helpful for both the historical view and the explanation of the calculation. I hope to have the 2010 Dropout calculation ready next week.

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Graduation Rates in Alaska Fact Sheet

The Graduation Rate is reported as a fraction. The numerator is the sum of the number of graduates receiving a regular diploma before June 30. The denominator is the sum of the number of graduates, plus the number of dropouts in grade nine three school years prior, plus the number of unduplicated dropouts in grade ten two school years prior, plus the number of unduplicated dropouts in grade eleven in the prior school year, plus the number of unduplicated dropouts in grade 12 during the current year, plus the number of grade 12 continuing students.

A **graduate** is defined as a student who has received a regular diploma from a state- or district-approved education program, as evidenced by receipt of a secondary school diploma from school authorities. Any student who receives a diploma under a waiver from the competency examination required under AS 14.03075 (a), as specified by the state board is considered to be a graduate. This does not include an individual who:

- receives a certificate of completion;
- receives a certificate of attendance;

The statewide Graduation Count has increased significantly over the last five years.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Graduation Rate</u>	<u>Graduate Count</u>
2004	62.9%	7,290
2005	61.4%	6,905
2006	61.6%	7,361
2007	63.0%	7,666
2008	62.6%	7,855
2009	67.5%	8,008
2010	67.7%	8,245

The Alaska Native/American Indian Graduation Rate has shown improvement over the same five year time period:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Graduation Rate</u>	<u>Graduate Count</u>
2004	46.1%	1,327
2005	43.2%	1,233
2006	45.1%	1,442
2007	51.2%	1,689
2008	48.1%	1,523
2009	55.4%	1,508
2010	55.4%	1,616

Please note that the new Graduation Rate required by the Final Title 1 Regulations under NCLB will use a different calculation. The new Graduation Rate, also known as the Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate, will follow an actual group of students across four

years of high school. Alaska will no longer be incorporating prior years' counts of dropouts to calculate the Graduation Rate.

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Dropout Rates in Alaska Fact Sheet

The Dropout Rate is computed by dividing the number of dropouts in the current school year by the number of students enrolled in grades 7-12 on October 1 of the current school year. School year is defined as the 12-month period beginning with July 1 and ending June 30.

A **Dropout** is defined as a student who was enrolled in the district at some time during the school year and whose enrollment terminated. This does not include an individual who:

- graduated from high school or completed a state or district approved education program, as evidenced by receipt of formal recognition from school authorities;
- transferred to another public school, private school or state or district approved education program;
- is temporarily absent due to suspension;
- is absent due to illness or medical condition;
- died.

The statewide Dropout Rate has decreased as well as the number of dropouts for three consecutive years:

School Year	Dropout Rate	Dropout Count (Grades 7-12)
2005	6.0%	3,791
2006	5.8%	3,642
2007	5.5%	3,434
2008	5.2%	3,232
2009	5.2%	3,146

The Alaska Native/American Indian Dropout Rate has not reflected the proportionate decrease over the same time period:

School Year	Dropout Rate	Dropout Count (Grades 7-12)
2005	8.2%	1,276
2006	8.4%	1,333
2007	8.3%	1,299
2008	8.5%	1,224
2009	8.5%	1,172

In 2007-2008 Alaska showed a wide range in difference with district by district comparisons of Dropout Rates. Four districts reported 0 dropouts. Two districts reported over 25% Dropout Rates. Both districts with the highest rates, Delta/Greely School District and the Nenana City School District, had a large percentage of dropouts reported in the statewide correspondence schools.