

### Graduation Rates Matter for Students With Disabilities

- High school graduation is one of the critical steps students take toward independence, meaningful work, and realizing their dreams.
- Graduation rates are one indication of the degree to which educational services support student success.

### Reporting Requirement: Graduation Rates

Indicator 1 is a results indicator.

Indicator 1—Percent of youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) graduating from high school with a regular diploma.

20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A)

### Michigan Information on Graduation Rates

In March 2009, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) revised the graduation indicator language including the measurement and timeline to align with the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA). As a result of this revision, Michigan now uses the cohort four-year graduation rate for the Annual Performance Report (APR).

### Michigan's Commitment to Education

In January 2007, the Michigan Legislature enacted a statute outlining the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), a comprehensive set of graduation requirements intended to provide all Michigan students with the skills and knowledge needed for continuing education and employment in the 21st Century. Beginning with the class of 2011, graduates are expected to meet these requirements.

Michigan educators are analyzing the relationship between graduation and dropout. One forum for this was the Michigan Dropout Prevention Leadership Summit (held in October 2008). This summit led to the State Superintendent's Dropout Challenge, which has invited elementary, middle, and high schools to analyze school buildings' risk for dropout.

### Defining Graduation Rates

The data presented in this Indicator 1 Special Education Facts is 2007-2008 data because the federal government prescribed a one-year data lag. Most of the other Special Education Facts present 2008-2009 data.

The 2007-2008 cohort four-year graduation rate was calculated by tracking individual students who first enrolled in ninth grade during the 2004-2005 school year and graduated four years later with a regular diploma.

Data used to calculate graduation rates came from the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) and the Graduation and Dropout (GAD) Review and Comment Application. As students with disabilities leave their school district, school district personnel report the exit status of each student (e.g., graduated, other high school completer, dropped out, moved to a new district) in the SRSD.

## Michigan's Performance

### Measurable and Rigorous Targets

| Indicator Component   | FFY 2007*<br>Result | FFY 2007<br>Target | FFY 2007<br>Status |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Percent of youth with IEPs graduating with a regular diploma. | 58.0%               | <b>80.0%</b>       | Target Not Met     |

*To maintain consistency within the MDE, the current target is identical to Michigan's graduation target for all youth in the state.*

Source: Single Record Student Database (SRSD), Graduation and Dropout (GAD) Review and Comment Application

\*Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 = July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 (2007-2008 school year)

Michigan did not meet its graduation target of 80 percent for 2007-2008. Many statewide improvement activities are still in the early stages of development and implementation. Therefore, very few of the students benefiting from these efforts have reached graduation age.

The data presented above is 2007-2008 data because the federal government prescribed a one-year data lag for Indicator 1.

Only one year of data is presented for Indicator 1 because the federal government changed the calculation methodology last spring. Due to this change, the previous year's data for Indicator 1 is not comparable to the data presented above.

## For More Information

**Michigan's Public Reporting Information**  
[www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_6598\\_31834---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6598_31834---,00.html)

**Michigan's Graduation Requirements**  
[www.michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.michigan.gov/highschool)

**Education YES!**  
[www.michigan.gov/edyes](http://www.michigan.gov/edyes)

**The National High School Center**  
[www.betterhighschools.org](http://www.betterhighschools.org)

**High Schools That Work**  
[www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/hstwindex.asp](http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/hstwindex.asp)

**Michigan's State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR)**  
[www.michigan.gov/ose-eis](http://www.michigan.gov/ose-eis)

## Michigan Can Improve

- Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi) supports positive behavior support and literacy in 38 middle and high schools.
- The Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners (RTSL) Initiative applies a learning community model to support 15 middle and high school building teams to improve their graduation and dropout rates.
- The Michigan Transition Outcomes Project (MI-TOP) promotes transition practices intended to increase graduation rates and promote successful transition to postsecondary roles.