

Using the National Center for Education Statistics Dropout Definition for Texas Leaver Reporting

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the changes required to implement legislation passed in 2003 to use the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) dropout definition for Texas leaver reporting. Specifically, the changes described below pertain to the accounting and reporting of annual dropouts in grades 7-12.

Background

In 2003, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 186 which amended the dropout indicator in the Texas public school Academic Excellence Indicator system. The indicator is specified as follows:

“dropout rates, including dropout rates and district completion rates for grade levels 9 through 12, computed in accordance with standards and criteria adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics [NCES] of the United States Department of Education” (Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.051(b)(2)).

In the 2005-06 school year, districts will begin collecting information according to the new dropout definition and procedures on students in grades 7-12 who leave. School districts will begin submitting data using the new definition and procedures in 2006-07.

Definition of a Leaver

A leaver is a student who is enrolled in Texas public school in grades 7-12 and does not return to Texas public school on the first day of school in the following fall. A student who moves or officially transfers from one Texas public school district to another is not counted as a leaver. A leaver may be a student who graduates, receives a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, continues high school outside the Texas public school system or begins college, is expelled, dies, or drops out (see Table A-1).

Definition of a Dropout

A dropout is a student who is enrolled in Texas public school in grades 7-12, does not return to Texas public school the following fall, is not expelled, does not graduate, receive a GED, continue high school outside the Texas public school system or begin college, or die.

Summary of Changes

Leaver reason codes

Rules. The leaver reason codes have been modified to match the NCES definition (see Table A-2). Some codes have been deleted, some have been consolidated, and some have been changed from “non-dropout” to dropout reason codes. A major change is the counting of students who leave to earn their GED certificates. Under the NCES definition, students who leave to attend GED programs are counted as dropouts unless they receive their GEDs by August 31st. For example, students who leave during the 2005-06 school year and earn their GEDs by August 31, 2006, are not counted as dropouts.

Students who move to other Texas public school districts are not reported using leaver reason codes. School districts may confirm that students have moved to other Texas public school districts by searching the Person Identification Database (PID) Enrollment Tracking (PET). Districts are not required to maintain documentation of students who enroll in other Texas public school districts. PET may be used to establish tentative local documentation that students have moved to other Texas public school districts. The final determination of whether students are leavers will be made by TEA. Students who intend to enroll in other Texas public school districts but do not are counted as dropouts unless the district obtains documentation that the students have other valid leaver reasons.

Students who move to other districts in the summer must be enrolled during the school-start window the following fall. Please see *Return Date or School-Start Window for Returning Students*

Changes in PEIMS reporting. The leaver reason code table has been revised (see Table A-2). The revised code table is available to school districts in Appendix F of the 2006 PEIMS Data Standards. School districts submit enrollment and withdrawal records to an extension of the EDIT+ PID application so that student moves between Texas public school districts are tracked statewide.

Effective date. School districts will collect leaver information on students leaving in 2005-06 according to the new definition and procedures. The 2005-06 leavers are reported using the new leaver reason codes in the 2006-07 PEIMS Submission 1.

Reconciled dropouts and leavers

Rules. Three categories of dropouts that were removed from the state accountability dropout count are no longer removed under the NCES definition: partial dropouts, duplicate records, and students ineligible for funding. All students who drop out are counted as dropouts regardless of their average daily attendance (ADA) eligibility. To be in compliance with the NCES definition, all students who drop out, regardless of ADA eligibility code, are included in the dropout count.

Changes in PEIMS reporting. There are no changes. School districts report all students who drop out, and TEA modifies its procedures for calculating dropout counts.

Effective date. The changes will take effect for students who leave in 2005-06 and are reported in the 2006-07 PEIMS Submission 1.

Matching the Denominator and the Numerator

NCES rules. The denominator for NCES dropout rates is enrollment on the fall "snapshot" date.

State rules. The state dropout rate calculation uses cumulative enrollment for the school year as a denominator. Cumulative enrollment is a count of students for whom attendance or enrollment is reported. Students who are served but not in membership are no longer excluded from the denominator. Students not in membership will be extracted from PEIMS Submission 1 enrollment and added to the denominator to bring the numerator and denominator in alignment. See Attachment B.

Changes in PEIMS reporting. There are no changes.

Effective date. Counting students not in membership in the denominator will take effect with the 2005-06 dropout rate which is first reported in 2006-07.

Return Date or School-Start Window for Returning Students

Rules. Students must return during the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September to be counted as having returned to school. This period is the school-start window. Students who do not return during the school-start window are reported and counted as dropouts. Migrant students are counted as returning students, regardless of return date.

For students who leave during the school year, leaver reasons apply at the time of withdrawal. The NCES definition of a dropout is based on a strict-year cycle and so, for students who fail to return, leaver reasons apply on the first day of school's approximation, the school-start window.

Changes in PEIMS reporting. Students' enrollment status are reported for three days or intervals during the school year: the school-start window, the fall as-of or "October snapshot" date, and the final day of school. Enrollment status previously collected only in PEIMS Submission 1 is collected in both PEIMS Submissions 1 and 3.

Effective date.

Attachment B Denominator Calculations

Table B-1
NCES and State Denominator Calculations

Definition	Record	DataElement	Code
Enrollment on fall "snapshot" date ^a	110	E0787 ADA-ELIGIBILITY-CODE	C059 codes 0-6
Cumulative enrollment	110	E0787 ADA-ELIGIBILITY-CODE	

Attachment C Enrollment Statuses

Table C-1
AS-OF-STATUS-CODE reporting requirements for 2005-06 and 2006-07

Year	Codes used in	
	PEIMS Submission 1	PEIMS Submission 3
2005-06		
Grades EE-06	1	X
Grades 7-12	0, 1, 2	H, I
2006-07		
Grades EE-06	X	X
Grades 7-12	A, B, C, D, E, F, G	H, I

Table C-2
AS-OF-STATUS-CODE table for 2005-06 PEIMS Submission 3 and 2006-07 PEIMS Submissions 1 and 3

Code	Description
Grades EE-06. Use for Submissions 1 and 3.	
X	For all students in Grades EE-06.
Grades 7-12. Use for Submission 1.	
A	Student was enrolled in the district during the prior school year but has never enrolled during the current year
B	Student was enrolled in the district within the school-start window and was enrolled on the fall as-of date
C	Student was enrolled in the district within the school-start window and was not enrolled on the fall as-of date
D	Student was enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was not enrolled within the school-start window in the current school year and was enrolled on the fall as-of date in the current school year
E	Student was enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was enrolled in the district in the current year but not within the school-start window and not on the fall as-of date
F	Student was not enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was not enrolled within the school-start window in the current school year and was enrolled on the fall as-of date in the current school year
G	Student was not enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was enrolled in the district in the current year but not within the school-start window and not on the fall as-of date
Grades 7-12. Use for Submission 3.	
H	Student was enrolled in the district on the final day of the school year
I	Student was enrolled in the district at some time during the year, but not on the final day of the school year.