

Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) for 2005-2012

Overview of the State Performance Plan Development:

Monitoring Priority: FAPE in the LRE

Indicator 1: Percent of youth with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular diploma.

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

Measurement: States must report using the graduation rate calculation and timeline established by the Department under the ESEA.

Overview of Issue/Description of System or Process:

In Massachusetts the measurement for the statewide graduation rate is the number of students in a cohort who graduate in four years or less, divided by the number of first-time entering 9th graders in that cohort. The denominator is adjusted so that students who transfer into Massachusetts' public schools are added to the original cohort, and students who transfer out or who are now deceased, are subtracted from the original cohort. The quotient is multiplied by 100 to express the graduation rate as a percentage. The measurement for *all youth*, regardless of IEP status, *is the same*.

For students in the 2005-2006 cohort, Massachusetts is calculating and reporting a statewide Graduation Rate for the first time. This cohort includes all students who entered 9th grade in Massachusetts' public schools for the first time in the fall of 2002, plus all students who transferred into the cohort during the four years, minus all students who transferred out of the cohort or who were deceased during the four years. Students who earned their Competency Determination, met all local graduation requirements, and received a diploma from a Massachusetts public high school in four years or less were counted as graduates. Summer graduates were included as if they graduated in the June preceding the summer.

The data used to calculate the Graduation Rate are obtained through the Student Information Management System (SIMS) scheduled reports that are submitted by school districts throughout the year. Because this is the first time MASSDE has calculated the graduation rate, and because the data come from the initial years of SIMS when districts were still becoming familiar with the system, MASSDE has allowed for the possibility of a limited number of corrections. Initial student-level data for the 2005-2006 cohort were released to districts in November of 2006, and district staff had one month to review the data and request corrections. MASSDE then reviewed all requests and made appropriate corrections. For subsequent years, it is anticipated that the number and type of corrections allowed will decrease.

MASSDE's calculation method is based on the formula set forth in the National Governors' Association (NGA) Compact, and meets the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) definition of Graduation Rate for use in determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for secondary schools. However, MASSDE acknowledges that a significant number of students require more than four years to graduate, so a Five-Year Graduation Rate has also been calculated. Although Massachusetts' formal SPP targets are based on the Four-Year graduation rate, Massachusetts will continue to generate both rates for the entire student population of each cohort and for individual student subgroups at the state, district, and school level. Additional information on the calculation of graduation rates is available on MASSDE's website at the following link: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/reports/gradrates/>

Baseline Data for FFY 2005 (2005-2006):

	# of Students in 2005-2006 cohort	# of Students who graduated in four years or less	2005-2006 Graduation Rate
IEP	13,814	8,440	61.1%
Non-IEP	60,934	51,149	83.9%
All Students	74,380	59,440	79.9%

Discussion of Baseline Data:

The data provided in the above table show that students with disabilities in Massachusetts' public schools are graduating from high school in four years at a lower rate than their non-disabled peers. Based on the cohort formula for calculating Graduation Rate, 61.1% of students with disabilities in the 2005-2006 cohort graduated from high school in four years or less while the Graduation Rate is 83.9% for non-disabled students in the same cohort, and is 79.9% for all students in the cohort.

The Five-Year Graduation Rate for students in the 2005-2006 cohort is 67.0% for students with disabilities, 86.2% for non-disabled students, and 82.7% overall. This means that 5.9% of students with disabilities in the cohort, and 2.3% of students without disabilities, graduated in five years instead of four. MASSDE recognizes that it is appropriate for some students to take longer than four years to complete high school, and so Massachusetts will continue to calculate and publicly report the Five-Year Rate for subsequent cohorts as an additional measure of year-to-year progress.

This disparity between the Graduation Rates for disabled and for non-disabled students in Massachusetts reflects a national trend. The report on SPP Indicator 1 prepared by the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) for the Regional Resource and Federal Center Network's Part B SPP/APR Indicator Analysis shows that of 36 states that reported Graduation Rates for both student with disabilities and all students, 35 states had a positive gap between the all-student rate and the rate for students with disabilities. One state actually had a negative gap between the all-student rate and the rate for students with disabilities, and the gaps for the other 35 states ranged from approximately one percentage point to approximately 45 percentage points. Massachusetts, with a gap of 18.2 percentage points, appears to be on par with many of the states reporting Graduation Rates for both students with disabilities and all students, although it should be noted that many states used an "event" calculation which cannot be directly compared to Massachusetts' "cohort" calculation.

Massachusetts is committed to closing the gap between the graduation rate of students with disabilities and the graduation rate of students without disabilities over a ten-year period. Our SPP targets set in December 2009 reflect a graduation rate for all students at or above 95% by FFY 2018. The plan is to increase the Graduation Rate of all students with disabilities by approximately 5% every two years, as indicated below.

For the extended SPP period (FFY 2011 and FFY 2012), targets and activities were reviewed with the Statewide Special Education Steering Committee.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	<u>Baseline Year- 61.1%</u>
2006 (2006-2007)	61.7%

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	65.0% ¹
2008 (2008-2009)	70.0%
2009 (2009-2010)	72.5%
2010 (2010-2011)	75.0%
2011 (2011-2012)	77.5%
2012 (2012-2013)	80.0%

Improvement Activities/Timelines/Resources:

Please note that many of the activities presented below affect multiple indicator areas. For these activities, a full description of the activity is available in Appendix A.

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
2005 - 2007	<u>Project FOCUS Academy</u> (Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 14) See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, grant partners (Federation for Children with Special Needs, Center for Applied Special Technologies, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass-Boston, Education Development Center), district staff time
2005 - 2012	<u>Collaboration with Stakeholders</u> (All Indicators) See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time

¹ For more information about the revised targets for FFY 2007 through FFY 2010, see the Massachusetts Part B Annual Performance Report (MA APR) for FFY 2008, available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spp/maspp.html>.

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
2005 - 2012	<p><u>Special Education Professional Development Summer Institutes</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2005 - 2012	<p><u>Special Education Website</u> <i>(All Indicators)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Trauma Sensitive Schools Initiative</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2007 - 2012	<p><u>Massachusetts FOCUS Academy</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, grant partners (Federation for Children with Special Needs, Center for Applied Special Technologies, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass-Boston), district staff time
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Federal School Turnaround Grants</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time, stakeholder groups
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Secondary Transition – TransitionWorks: Innovative Strategies for Transitioning Youth with Disabilities from School to Work</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission staff time
2008 - 2012	<p><u>National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) Professional Development Series</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2010	<p><u>Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Dropout Prevention and Recovery Work Group</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Dropout Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Website</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2007 - 2008	<p><u>Massachusetts Online Resource Library</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2007 - 2008	<p><u>SPecial EDition Online Newsletter</u> <i>(All Indicators)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Educational Proficiency Plans (EPPs)</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2008 - 2012	<p><u>ARRA Title II-D Technology Competitive Grants Program</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2008 - 2010	<p><u>Interagency Regional Summit Meetings</u></p> <p>Funded in part from an America's Promise grant and are co-organized by MASSDE, MA Executive Office of Education, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and Commonwealth Corporation. These summits are intended to support regional teams in understanding and using youth-related data including student graduation, dropout, youth employment, and state and regional labor market information to promote timely graduation and college and career readiness.</p>	MASSDE, MA Executive Office of Education, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and Commonwealth Corporation staff time

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Summit</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 8)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2005 - 2010	<p><u>Secondary School Reading Grant</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time
2009 - 2012	<p><u>Early Warning Indicator Index (EWII)</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2009 - 2011	<p><u>ARRA Entitlement Grants</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2009 - 2012	<p><u>Massachusetts Task Force on Behavioral Health and Public Schools</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	MASSDE staff time, district staff time