

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

Overview of the State Performance Plan Development:

Monitoring Priority: FAPE in the LRE

Indicator 2: Percent of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school.

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

Measurement: States must report using the dropout data used in the ESEA graduation rate calculation and follow the timeline established by the Department under the ESEA.

Overview of Issue/Description of System or Process:

A dropout is defined as a student in grades 9-12 in Massachusetts public schools who leaves school prior to graduation for reasons other than to transfer to another school, and does not re-enroll before the following October 1. The data used to calculate the dropout rate are obtained through the Student Information Management System (SIMS) scheduled reports that are submitted by school districts throughout the year. The end-of-year collection period includes a count of students who dropped out. This figure is then amended after districts submit their first SIMS report for the following school year (the October 1st collection). Students who were reported as a “dropout” at the end of the year and then were enrolled in a district at the subsequent October 1st count (i.e., “returned dropouts”), are removed from the data set. Students who drop out of high school but earn a GED are also removed from this data set. Students who were reported as enrolled at the end of the year but were not reported in the next October 1st SIMS collection (i.e., “summer dropouts”) are added back in to the count and are applied towards the grade in which they failed to enroll. The remaining figure is then divided by the total enrollment of students that were reported in the October 1st data collection during the July 1st to June 30th twelve-month period for which the dropout count is being calculated.

For additional information on the dropout calculation, see the flowchart available at the following link: [Reporting Guidelines - Information Services/Data Collection \(http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/guides/dropouts.html\)](http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/guides/dropouts.html).

Baseline Data for FFY 2004 (2004-2005):

	# of Students Enrolled (Grades 9-12)	# of Dropouts (Grades 9-12)	2004-2005 Dropout Rate
IEP	42,647	2,369	5.6%
Non-IEP	250,752	8,776	3.5%
All Students	293,399	11,145	3.8%

Discussion of Baseline Data:

The data provided in the above table show that students with IEPs in Massachusetts’ public schools are dropping out of high school at a higher rate than their peers without IEPs. Based on this formula for calculating Dropout Rate, which is an “event” or “annual” rate calculation, 5.6% of students with IEPs dropped out of high school in 2004-2005. The Dropout Rate was 3.5% for students without IEPs, and was 3.8% for all students, in 2004-2005.

This disparity between the Dropout Rates for students with and without IEPs in Massachusetts reflects a national trend. The report on SPP Indicator 2 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 37 states that reported Dropout Rates for both student with IEPs and all students, the majority of states had a positive gap between the all-student rate and the rate for students with IEPs, with gaps ranging between a fraction of one percentage point and approximately 18 percentage points. Massachusetts, with a gap of 1.8 percentage points, appears to be on par with many of the states reporting Dropout Rates for both students with IEPs and all students, although it should be noted that many states used a "cohort" calculation which cannot be directly compared to Massachusetts' "event" calculation.

Massachusetts is committed to closing the gap between the dropout rate of students with IEPs and the dropout rate of students without IEPs over a ten-year period. Our SPP targets reflect a ten-year goal for FFY 2015 of a dropout rate for students with IEPs at or below 3.5%. Our ten-year plan is to decrease the Dropout Rate of students with IEPs by approximately half of one percentage point every two years as follows:

- FFY 2005 & FFY 2006: 5.6%
- FFY 2007 & FFY 2008: 5.1%
- FFY 2009 & FFY 2010: 4.7%
- FFY 2011 & FFY 2012: 4.3%
- FFY 2013 & FFY 2014: 3.9%
- FFY 2015: 3.5%

Targets and activities for the extended SPP reporting period, FFY 2011 and FFY 2012, were reviewed in consultation with the Massachusetts Statewide Special Education Steering Committee.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	Students with IEPs Dropout Rate: 5.6%
2006 (2006-2007)	5.6%
2007 (2007-2008)	5.1%
2008 (2008-2009)	5.1%
2009 (2009-2010)	4.7%
2010 (2010-2011)	4.7%
2011 (2011-2012)	4.3%

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2012 (2012-2013)	4.3%

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>Special Education Professional Development Summer Institutes</u> (Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14) See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2005 - 2012	<u>Special Education Website</u> (All Indicators) See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time
2005 - 2012	<u>Collaboration with Stakeholders</u> (All Indicators) See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) Professional Development Series</u> (Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14) See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
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>	<p>MASSDE staff time, grant partners (Federation for Children with Special Needs, Center for Applied Special Technologies, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass-Boston, Ribas Associates, Hampshire Education Collaborative), district staff time</p>
2007 - 2012	<p><u>Central Massachusetts Communities of Care Positive Behavioral Interventions (PBIS) Grant</u> <i>(Indicators 2, 4, 5)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for complete description.</p>	<p>MASSDE staff time, grant partners (Central Massachusetts Communities of Care, National Center for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports trainers), district staff time</p>
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>	<p>MASSDE staff time</p>
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>	<p>MASSDE staff time, New England Comprehensive Center staff time, district staff time</p>
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>	<p>MASSDE staff time</p>
2007 - 2008	<p><u>SPecial EDition Newsletter</u> <i>(All Indicators)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	<p>MASSDE staff time</p>
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>	<p>MASSDE staff time</p>

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
2008 - 2012	<u>ARRA Title II-D Technology Competitive Grants Program</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 14)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Summit</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 8)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC)</u> <i>(Indicators 2, 3, 4, 5, 13)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>Educational Proficiency Plans</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time
2005 - 2010	<u>Secondary School Reading Grant</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>Secondary Transition – Transition Works: Innovative Strategies for Transitioning Youth with Disabilities from School to Work</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 13, 14)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>Trauma Sensitive Schools Initiative</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, district staff time
2008 - 2012	<u>Work-Based Learning Plans for Students with Disabilities.</u> <i>(Indicators 2, 4, 13, 14)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, district staff time, Workforce Development staff time
2009 - 2012	<u>Early Warning Indicator Index (EWII)</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 14)</i> See Appendix A for a complete description.	MASSDE staff time, district staff time

Timelines (FFY)	Improvement Activity	Resources
2008 - 2010	<p><u>ARRA Entitlement Grants</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	<p>MASSDE staff time, district staff time</p>
2009 - 2012	<p><u>Massachusetts Task for on Behavioral Health and Public Schools</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	<p>MASSDE staff time, district staff time</p>
2008 - 2012	<p><u>Closing the Achievement Gap Legislation</u> <i>(Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14)</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for a complete description.</p>	<p>MASSDE staff time, district staff time, stakeholder groups</p>
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>	<p>MASSDE staff time, district staff time, stakeholder groups</p>