According to 2008 Regulations, states are required to calculate a four-year adjusted-cohort graduation rate, starting school year 2010-2011. The graduation rate is calculated based on the federal guidance of NCLB High School Graduation Rate, http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf, and the results will be reported through IWAS at the Step 2 (Verification and Approval Process) of the e-Report Card application.

The formula for the four-year graduation rate is listed below

\[
\frac{\text{Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma through summer 2011}}{\text{Number of first−time 9th graders in fall 2007 (starting cohort) plus students who transfer in, minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during school years 2007 − 2008, 2008 − 2009, 2009 − 2010, 2010 − 2011, and through summer 2011}}
\]

**Graduates:** Only includes students who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less as a high school graduate in the original cohort—that is, the cohort with which he or she started 9th grade. If a student who entered the 9th grade for the first time in the 2007-2008 school year and graduates in three years or less, this student would be included in the cohort of students expected to graduate in the 2010-2011 school year.

A student with a disability who does not graduate with a regular high school diploma, but instead receives an alternative diploma, certificate of completion, or any other degree or certificate that is not fully aligned with a state’s academic content standards may not be counted as graduating in calculating the graduation rate.

**First-time 9th graders:** Students who entered the 9th grade for the first time in the 2007-2008 school year.

**Transfer in:** A transfer into a cohort occurs when a student enrolls after the beginning of the entering cohort’s first year in high school, up to and including in grade 12. A student who transfers into a school should be assigned to the cohort in which the student started 9th grade for the first time.

**Transfer Out:** Only a student who transfers out and enrolls in another school or in an educational program that culminates in the award of a regular high school diploma, emigrates to another country, or dies may be removed from a high school’s or LEA’s cohort. Before removing a student from a cohort, a school or LEA must obtain confirmation in writing that the student transferred out, emigrated, or is deceased. If a student transfers out of country, the written document is not required. A student who is retained in grade, enrolls in a GED program, or leaves school for any other reason may not be counted in the four-year graduation rate as a transfer and must remain in the adjusted cohort (i.e., must be included in the denominator of the graduation rate for that cohort). Dropout is not counted as a transfer out.

**Subgroup Status**

For the first time 9th grade cohort graduation rate calculation, apply the most current subgroup status. However, if a student is LEP/IEP as a freshman and is enrolled at the same school at the time of graduation or exiting school, he/she will be counted among the LEP/IEP subgroups in calculating the graduation rates for the LEP/IEP subgroups.