

Appendix I – Dropout Definition

In 2003, the Texas Legislature amended the Texas Education Code (TEC) to define dropouts for state accountability according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition. Specifically, statute states that the Academic Excellence Indicators (TEC §39.051) include:

(b)(2) dropout rates, including dropout rates and district completion rates for grade levels 9 through 12, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics of the United States Department of Education;

Students who dropped out during the 2005-06 school year were the first to be reported according to the new definition. The 2006-07 school year and beyond continues use of the new definition. This appendix describes how the new definition applies to state accountability.

DEFINITIONS

Leaver. A leaver may be any one of the following: 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.

Movers. A mover is a student who moves from one public school district to another, within Texas. A leaver record is not required for a mover.

Dropout. A dropout is a student who was enrolled in 2006-07 in a Texas public school in grades 7 – 12, but did not return to a Texas public school the following fall within the school-start window, was not expelled, did not graduate, receive a GED, continue high school outside the Texas public school system, or begin college, or die.

School-Start Window. This is the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September.

ITEMS THAT CHANGED

Leaver Reason Codes. These codes were first modified in the *2006-07 Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Data Standards*, to be in compliance with the NCES definition. Some codes were deleted, some were consolidated, and some were changed from “non-dropout” to dropout reason codes.

The following table provides an overview of the previous leaver codes compared to the codes available in the current (2007-08) PEIMS Data Standards. Codes that have not changed are shown in **bold**. In the *Dropout?* column, each leaver code is noted as *Yes* or *No*, indicating whether a student with that code will be counted as a dropout for accountability purposes.

Please note that this table is not a substitute for the detailed information and instructions available in the *PEIMS Data Standards*. PEIMS managers should consult the data standards for precise information on coding leavers.

Table 40: Changes in PEIMS Leaver Codes

Previous (2005-06 Data Standards)			Current (2007-08 Data Standards)		
Code	Description	Dropout?	Code	Description	Dropout?
01	Graduated	No	01	Graduated	No
02	Pursue Job/Job Training	Yes	98	Other	Yes
03	Died	No	03	Died	No
04	Join the Military	Yes	98	Other	Yes
08	Pregnancy	Yes	98	Other	Yes
09	Marriage	Yes	98	Other	Yes
10	Alcohol/Other drug abuse problem	Yes	98	Other	Yes
14	Age	Yes	98	Other	Yes
15	Homeless or non-permanent resident	Yes	98	Other	Yes
16	Return to home country	No	16	Return to home country	No
19	Failed exit TAAS/TAKS, met grad. req.	No	98	Other	Yes
21	Official transfer to other Texas district	No	--	No code if found to be "mover"	No
22	Alternative program, working toward diploma or certificate	No	98	Other	Yes
24	College, pursue degree	No	24	College, pursue degree	No
30	Enter health-care facility	No	*	Deleted, see footnote*	*
31	Completed GED	No	**	Deleted; see footnote**	**
60	Home schooling	No	60	Home schooling	No
61	Incarcerated outside district	No	*	Deleted, see footnote*	*
63	Graduated, returned, left again	No	--	No code if found to be graduate	No
64	GED, returned, left again	No	**	Deleted; see footnote**	**
66	Removed by Child Protect. Srv.	No	66	Removed by Child Protect. Srv.	No
72	Court-ordered alternative program	No	98	Other	Yes
78	Expelled, cannot return	No	78	Expelled, cannot return	No
79	Expelled, can return, has not	Yes	98	Other	Yes
80	Enrolled in another Texas public school	No	--	No code if found to be "mover"	No
81	Enrolled in Texas private school	No	81	Enroll in Texas private school	No
82	Enrolled in school outside Texas	No	82	Enroll in school outside Texas	No
83	Administrative withdrawal	No	83	Administrative withdrawal	No
84	Academic performance	Yes	98	Other	Yes
n/a	not available in 2005-06	n/a	85	Graduated outside Texas, returned, left again	No
n/a	not available in 2005-06	n/a	86	GED Outside Texas	No
n/a	not available in 2005-06	n/a	87	Enroll in University High School Diploma Program	No
n/a	not available in 2005-06	n/a	98	Other	Yes
99	Other (unknown or not listed)	Yes	n/a	Deleted	n/a

* If the student moves to a facility served by a Texas public school district, no code is necessary. For other situations, see the *PEIMS Data Standards*.

** If a GED was earned prior to September 1, 2007, student is not a dropout and no code is necessary. For other situations, see the *PEIMS Data Standards*.

GED. Under the NCES definition, students who leave school to attend GED programs are counted as dropouts unless they receive their GED certificates by August 31st. That is, students who left during the 2006-07 school year but earned their GEDs by August 31, 2007 were not counted as dropouts.

Movers. Students who move from one Texas public school district to another are no longer reported using leaver reason codes. School districts may confirm that students have moved to other Texas public school districts by searching the PID Enrollment Tracking (PET) application; nevertheless, the final determination of whether students have moved will be made by TEA.

Dropouts No Longer Removed. In order to be in compliance with the NCES definition, three categories of dropouts that were removed from the state accountability dropout count in the past are no longer removed:

- *Previous Dropouts.* Students who dropped out, then returned and dropped out again are counted as dropouts for the annual dropout rate in each year they drop out.
- *Duplicate Records.* If more than one district reports a student as a dropout, and the last district of attendance cannot be determined, the student will be counted as a dropout for both districts.
- *ADA Ineligible Students.* All students are now included in the dropout calculation, regardless of their Average Daily Attendance (ADA) eligibility code. They count in both the numerator and denominator. That is, students who are served but are not in the district's or campus's membership are no longer excluded from the methodology.

School-Start Window. Students must return during the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September (September 28, 2007) to be counted as having returned to school and not be counted as leavers from the prior year.

Migrant Students. Migrant students who return after the school-start window are not counted as dropouts.

PEIMS Reporting. Student enrollment status is now reported for three dates during the school year: the school-start window, the fall "as of" (October snapshot) date, and the final day of school. Enrollment status previously collected only in PEIMS submission 1, is now collected in both PEIMS submissions 1 and 3.

ITEMS THAT REMAINED THE SAME

Cumulative Enrollment. The state annual dropout rate calculation will continue to use cumulative enrollment for the school year in the denominator. Cumulative enrollment is a count of all students for whom attendance or enrollment is reported during the school year.

Summer Dropouts. For state accountability purposes, summer dropouts are attributed to the school year just completed, based on the campus of enrollment on the final day of the previous school year.