

## Discharge Reporting – 2015-16 School Year

### Background

Local Law 42, enacted in 2011, requires the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to report to the New York City Council by June 30, 2017 the number of students in grades 6 through 12 who were discharged, transferred, or graduated during the 2015-16 school year. This document summarizes and explains the reported data.

This law requires the reporting of discharges and graduations that occur during one school year. The DOE ordinarily presents both types of events in the context of a high school graduation cohort – the group of students who entered 9th grade in the same year. Such cohort reporting reflects discharges that occurred at any time during the cohort’s four years of high school. Graduations and discharges are ordinarily reported by cohort because cohort reporting allows the DOE and the public to measure how well schools are fulfilling their purpose: educating all students who enter their school and preparing them to earn a high school diploma.

The data required by Local Law 42 reflects a snapshot of all students enrolled in a particular school year, regardless of the year they entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The data included in this reporting therefore differs significantly from most other graduation and discharge results reported by the DOE. As a snapshot of students at different stages of their educational careers, data reported by school year is less valuable than cohort reporting as a measure of New York City schools’ success in keeping students engaged and moving them to graduation.

### Official, Publically Reported Graduation and Dropout Rates (for context)

Graduation, Dropout Rates and Discharges Outside of NYC: The New York State Education Department and the DOE recently reported outcomes for the cohort of students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2012 and completed their fourth year of high school in 2016.<sup>1</sup> According to these data:

- 72.6% of the class of 2016 graduated within four years by August, as compared to 70.5% in 2015.
- 8.5% of the class of 2016 dropped out, compared to 9.0% in 2015.
- A high school student with a confirmed discharge to a public or private school outside of the New York City school district is removed from a school’s graduation cohort. According to these data, the number of students discharged outside of New York City was 8,018 for the class of 2016 compared to 8,150 students the prior year. The number of students discharged outside of New York City schools in the class of 2016 was the lowest number since the DOE began reporting discharges by cohort in 1996.

### Discharge Reporting Results for the 2015-16 School Year

In contrast to the cohort reporting described above, the data required by Local Law 42 includes all students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 during the 2015-16 school year, and only includes discharge and transfer events that occurred during that school year. According to these data, during the 2015-16 school year:

- 12,677 students (2.4% of the 529,313 students enrolled in district schools) transferred between New York City public schools, including charter schools. It was 2.2% in 2014-15.
- 10,610 students (2.0%) were discharged outside of New York City public schools. It was 1.8% in 2014-15.
- 9,318 students (1.8%) dropped out or were discharged under other codes. It was 1.9% in 2014-15.

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<sup>1</sup> New York State cohort reports are available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/GraduationDropoutReports>.

## Methodology

At the citywide, borough and district levels, the DOE is required to report discharge, transfer and graduation counts by grade level (middle school only), cohort (high school only) and disability status. At the school level, the DOE is required to report discharge and transfer counts by grade level (middle school only), cohort (high school only), disability status broken down by, age as of 12/31 of the previous calendar year age, race/ethnicity, and gender

The report contains data for districts 1-32, 75 and 79. For the purpose of the report, the analysis includes the last transaction for each student from 10/31 (the day when official enrollment is established) to the end of the school year as 7/3 to account for graduation discharges.<sup>2</sup> Annual matriculation discharges, i.e. the ones when students are moving from Grade 8 to high school, are not included in the report.

Each discharge code is described below. More information on discharge codes can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/7D895277-1915-42B9-AEE5-73264B65926D/0/TDGCY.pdf>.

2015-16 Discharge Code	Discharge Description	Discharge Category
10	Discharge to a residential setting	Discharge out of NYC School
11	Discharge to a public school in NY State or any school out of NY State	Discharge out of NYC School
15	Deceased Student	Discharge out of NYC School
20	University matriculation without high school diploma	Discharge out of NYC School
25	Student already received high school diploma	Discharge out of NYC School
08	Discharge to a non-public school, family does not move or moves within NY State	Discharge out of NYC School
12	Student address unknown	Drop Out
21	Student is over 21 years of age.	Drop Out
29	Previously discharged with a credential, diploma or with a planning interview discharge	Drop Out
35	Military Service	Drop Out
39	Voluntary withdrawals or discharge after 20 consecutive days of non-attendance.	Drop Out
02	Confirmed enrollment in Job Corps or discharge to full-time employment	Drop Out
08X	Discharge to a non-public school, family does not move or moves within NY State - missing documentation	Drop Out
11X	Discharge to a public school in NY State or any school out of NY State - missing documentation	Drop Out
26	Local Diploma	Graduation or Credential
27	High School Regents Diploma	Graduation or Credential
28	High School Regents Diploma with Honors	Graduation or Credential
30	Received TASC	Graduation or Credential
47	High School Advanced Regents Diploma	Graduation or Credential
62	High School Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors	Graduation or Credential
64	Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential	Graduation or Credential
65	Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential	Graduation or Credential
18	Transfer to home schooling	Transfer
38	Transfer into DOE HSE High School Equivalency program	Transfer
43	Transfer into DOE HSE High School Equivalency program	Transfer
51	Transfer to Young Adult Borough Centers (YABC), D79 or D75 programs	Transfer
00	Transfer to another DOE school or program (including articulating grade levels)	Transfer

<sup>2</sup> Graduation discharges are entered as happening on 7/3 in the DOE's system of record ATS (Automate the Schools). In prior years of discharge reporting, only those graduation dates entered before 7/15 were included. However, this year, official graduation discharges entered after that date are also included.