

New York City Public Schools Discharge Reporting – 2023-24 School Year

Background

Local Law 42, enacted in 2011, requires New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) to report to the New York City Council by June 30, 2025 the number of students in grades 6 through 12 who were discharged, transferred, or graduated during the 2023-24 school year. This document summarizes the reported data.

This law requires the reporting of discharges and graduations that occur during one school year. NYCPS ordinarily presents both types of events in the context of a 9th grade graduation cohort, reflecting discharges that occurred at any time during the cohort's four years of high school. Graduations and discharges are ordinarily reported by cohort because it allows NYCPS to measure how well schools are preparing students 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 their cohort. The data included in this reporting therefore differs significantly from other graduation and discharge results reported by NYCPS. As a snapshot of students at different stages of their educational careers, data reported by school year is less meaningful than cohort reporting as a measure of schools' success in keeping students engaged and moving them to graduation.

Official, Publicly Reported Graduation and Dropout Rates (for context & not included in this report)

Graduation, Dropout Rates and Discharges Outside of NYC: The New York State Education Department and NYCPS [reported](#) outcomes for the cohort of students who entered 9th grade in 2020 and completed their fourth year of high school in 2024. According to these data:

- 83.3% of the class of 2024 graduated within four years by August, down slightly from 83.7% in 2023.
- 4.7% of the class of 2024 dropped out, down from 5.4% in 2023.
- 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 8,701 for the class of 2024, compared to 8,720 for the class of 2023. Note that these cohorts were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discharge Reporting Results for the 2023-24 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 2023-24 school year and includes discharge and transfer events that occurred after the audited register date (10/31) of that school year and before or on the audited register date of the next school year. For the 2023-24 school year, this includes all discharges and transfers between 11/1/2023 and 10/31/2024.

Due to changes to the methodology used for counting discharges, which expanded the enrollment transactions included in the report, the number of discharges reported is much higher than in previous years. Additionally, the 2022-23 counts noted in the summary below do not match the 2022-23 Discharge Report, which used the prior methodology. For more on the methodological changes, see below.

- In 2023-24, there were 85,186 student transfers between New York City public schools and programs, 10,335 transfers to charter schools, and 2,074 transfers to home schooling, compared to 89,914 transfers between NYCPS, 10,462 transfers to charter schools, and 1,960 transfers to home schooling in 2022-23. This includes matriculation transfers (i.e. when students move from Grade 8 to high school).

- In 2023-24, there were 29,596 discharges outside of New York City public schools, compared to 28,541 in 2022-23.
- In 2023-24, there were 8,990 dropouts or discharges under other codes, compared to 8,772 in 2022-23.

Methodology

Prior reporting focused on transfers and discharges that occurred during the school year after the register was set and included the last discharge for a given student. The methodology has been expanded to include all transactions that happen through a full year. Beginning with the 2023-24 report, three changes were made to the methodology for counting discharges:

1. The report now includes enrollment transactions that occurred prior to the audited register date (10/31). Prior versions of this report only counted transfers and discharges that occurred between 10/31 and the end of the school year.
 - a. Many enrollment transactions occur during the first two months of the school year, including transfers and discharges that occur over the summer and are recorded in early September. For these reasons, the report now attributes transactions from September and October to the prior school year. For example, transactions that occurred during September and October 2024 (prior to the SY2024-25 audited register date of 10/31/2024) are attributed to 2023-24 school year.
2. The report now includes annual matriculation discharges (i.e. when students move from Grade 8 to high school). Prior versions of this report excluded these discharges.
 - a. Matriculations from a school in districts 1-32, 75, or 79 to another school in those districts (i.e. not to a charter school) are included in the report under the “Transfer to DOE school” description. Matriculations to charter schools are included with other transfers to charter schools under the “Transfer to charter school” description.
 - i. Note that matriculations from charter schools to schools in D1-32, 75, or 79 are considered new enrollments, not transfers, and thus are not included in this report.
3. If a student had multiple enrollment transactions within the reporting period (11/1 to 10/31), the report now includes the latest transaction within each discharge type (based on discharge code and description) and geographic level (city, borough, district, school). Prior versions of this report only counted the last enrollment transaction per student per year at the city, borough, and district level.
 - a. For example, if a student transferred schools before dropping out, they would be counted twice, once in each category. If a student transferred schools twice, they would only be counted once in that category, based on the latest transfer.
 - b. Similarly, if a student transferred once in Brooklyn and once in Queens, only the later of the two would be counted at the city level, but each would be counted in their respective boroughs at the borough level.

As a result of these changes to the methodology, the counts of transfers and discharges in this report are much higher than previous versions of the report.

At the citywide, borough, district and school levels, NYCPS reports discharge, transfer, and graduation counts by grade level (for middle school students) and cohort (for high schools). For all enrollment transactions and grades/cohorts, the report includes disaggregations by age (as of 12/31 of the given school year), gender, race/ethnicity, English Language Learner status, and disability status. The report

contains data for districts 1-32, 75 and 79. Prior versions of this report included only some disaggregations for some grade bands (e.g. middle or high school) and geographic levels (e.g. citywide or school).

Each discharge code is described below. More information on discharge codes can be found here: <https://infohub.nycd.org/nyc-doe-topics/Policies/discharges>.

Discharge Category	Discharge Code	Discharge Description
Discharge out of NYC School	10	Discharge based on an agency directive and not by the parent of the student or school
Discharge out of NYC School	11	Discharge to a public or non-public school out of NYC
Discharge out of NYC School	15	Deceased student
Discharge out of NYC School	25	Proof Of Receipt of High School Diploma from outside the US
Discharge out of NYC School	08	Discharge to a non-public school in NYC
Drop Out	12	Discharge due to an unknown address
Drop Out	21	Student is over 21 years of age
Drop Out	39	Voluntary withdrawal or discharge after 20 consecutive days of non-attendance
Drop Out	02	Job Corps program or full-time employment
Drop Out	08X	Discharge to a non-public school in NYC - missing documentation
Drop Out	11X	Discharge to a public or non-public school out of NYC - missing documentation
Graduation or Credential	26	High School Local Diploma
Graduation or Credential	27	High School Regents Diploma
Graduation or Credential	28	High School Regents Diploma with Honors
Graduation or Credential	30	High School Equivalency Diploma (D79 Only)
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
Transfer	38	Transfer to a part-time DOE High School Equivalency (HSE) program (District 79 only)
Transfer	43	Transfer to a full-time DOE HSE program (District 79 only)
Transfer	51	Transfer (temporarily) to D79 or D75 from home (sending) school/ Home School Return (HSRE)
Transfer	00	Transfer to DOE school or charter school or home schooling
Transfer	29	Previously discharged after a credential, diploma, or a Planning Interview Discharge