



Office of Accountability Fact Sheet on the CPS One-Year Dropout Rate

What is the difference between the 2015 method and the prior method?

Under both the 2015 method and the prior method, verified out-of-district transfers (e.g., students who move to another school district) are removed from the calculation. However, starting in 2015, CPS increased the rigor of reviewing transfer verification information to ensure accuracy. When transfer documentation was found to be invalid (e.g., improper code) or incomplete, the student was not counted as a verified transfer and added back into the calculation. As a result, cohorts in years 2011-2015 are larger using the 2015 method.

What is the CPS One-Year Dropout Rate?

The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) one-year dropout rate is the percent of students enrolled in grades nine through twelve at any time during a school year who dropped out during that year.

How is the rate calculated?

The rate is calculated by dividing the number of students in grades nine through twelve who dropped out at any time during the school year by the total number of students enrolled in those grades at any time during that school year.

Who is included in the number of students enrolled?

The number of students enrolled includes all CPS students in grades nine through twelve who:

- Were enrolled at any time between the end of the school year being examined and the end of the prior school year, and
- Did not permanently transfer out of CPS during that time.

Note that this calculation is different than the rate used by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), which only includes students who were enrolled in the *fall* of the given school year.

Who is counted as a dropout?

Any student who drops out of a CPS school during the 12 month period between June of the previous year and June of the year being examined and is counted:

2007 One-Year Dropout Rate Calculation																							
Sept '05	Oct '05	Nov '05	Dec '05	Jan '06	Feb '06	Mar '06	Apr '06	May '06	Jun '06	Jul '06	Aug '06	Sept '06	Oct '06	Nov '06	Dec '06	Jan '07	Feb '07	Mar '07	Apr '07	May '07	Jun '07	Jul '07	Aug '07
2005-06 School Year												2006-07 School Year											

Students are considered dropouts if they:

- Have notified the school of their intention to drop out, *or*
- Have stopped showing up for school¹, *or*
- Have not arrived at the school in which they are enrolled, *or*
- Have been “lost” from the system and cannot be located, *or*
- Have left CPS as an unverified transfer student, and the transfer took place more than 150 calendar days before end of the school year.

¹ Schools must follow mandatory truancy procedures for students under the age of 17.



Office of Accountability Fact Sheet on the CPS One-Year Dropout Rate

What is an unverified transfer?

An unverified transfer is a student who left a CPS school and was entered into the district's student information system as a transfer (either to another CPS school or to a school outside of CPS), but for whom enrollment in the new school has not yet been confirmed. If a student has been in this status for more than 150 days at the end of the school year in which the transfer was supposed to take place, s/he is converted to a dropout.

Note that this "150-day rule" is designed to be consistent with ISBE's definition of a dropout. This method differs from the five-year cohort dropout rate calculation, which counts *all* unverified transfer students as dropouts.

Who is *not* counted as a dropout?

- Students who graduate
- Students who are still actively enrolled in CPS at the end of the school year
- Verified transfers out of CPS
- Students who transfer out of CPS schools within 150 days of the end of school, regardless of whether the transfer is verified

What if a student drops out and re-enrolls?

Each student is counted only once, using his or her end-of-year status in CPS. So a student who drops out and re-enrolls during the school year would be counted with his or her status at the end of the school year, rather than the earlier dropout status.

Students who drop out in more than one school year will be counted towards the dropout rate in each school year that they met the definition of a dropout.

Example Calculation

School A had 1,561 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve during the 2006-07 school year. Ten of these students transferred out of CPS and were verified in a new school during this year. The number of students enrolled in School A during this year was:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Enrolled} &= 1561 - 10 \\ &= 1551\end{aligned}$$

Five hundred ten of these students graduated during this school year; 1,018 of them were still enrolled in June of 2007; 20 of them dropped out between June of 2006 and June of 2007, and three of them were unverified transfer students more than 150 days before the end of the school year. This school's One-Year Dropout Rate was:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Dropouts} &= 20 \text{ ("True" dropouts)} + 3 \text{ (Unverified transfer students more than 150 days} \\ &\quad \text{before the end of the school year)} \\ &= 23\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Dropout Rate}_{\text{One-Year}} &= 23 / 1551 \\ &= 1.5\%\end{aligned}$$