

COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES

GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE

1988 - 89

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILLIAM T. RANDALL COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION STATE OF COLORADO

FEBRUARY 1990

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Prepared By

Jo Ann Keith Statistical Analyst 303-866-6837

Stella MacKenzie Senior Administrative Clerk 303-866-6821

Judy Burnes Unit Director Planning and Evaluation

Dan Stewart Assistant Commissioner Office of Management Services

Colorado Department of Education William T. Randall Commissioner of Education State of Colorado

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INTRODUCTION

This report on dropouts provides information on the number of students who have dropped out of Colorado's public schools during the 1988-89 school year. Schools with grades 7-12 are required to complete an end of year report which provides counts of students entering and withdrawing during the 12 month period July 1 through June 30.

The dropout rate is an annual rate, reflecting the percentage of all students enrolled in grades 7-12 who leave school during the reporting period and are not known to transfer to other public or private schools or a General Education Development (GED) program.

Colorado's dropout rate for the 1988-89 school year was 4.2 percent. Of the total 275,588 membership base in grades 7-12, 11,473 students dropped out resulting in a rate of 4.2 percent.

During the 1987-88 school year, 11,456 students dropped out resulting in a rate of 4.1 percent. Of the 11,456 reported as dropouts during the previous year, 3,145 were reported as retrievals during the 1988-89 school year. This represents one-fourth (27 percent) of the 1987-88 dropouts returning to school the following year.

Overall there has been no significant change in the total number of students dropping out of grades 7-12 or the number of retrievals during the 1988-89 and 1987-88 school years. However, the number of dropouts and retrievals will vary from district to district. It should also be noted that in districts with a small membership base, one dropout can produce a high dropout rate.

Districts enrolling students who have dropped out of other school districts have expressed concern because some of these students attend for a short time and then drop out again. These students not only contribute to their dropout rate but also their graduation rate. The Department of Education will conduct a survey at the end of the 1989-90 school year to determine how many students dropped out of school after maintaining only 1-15 days of membership.

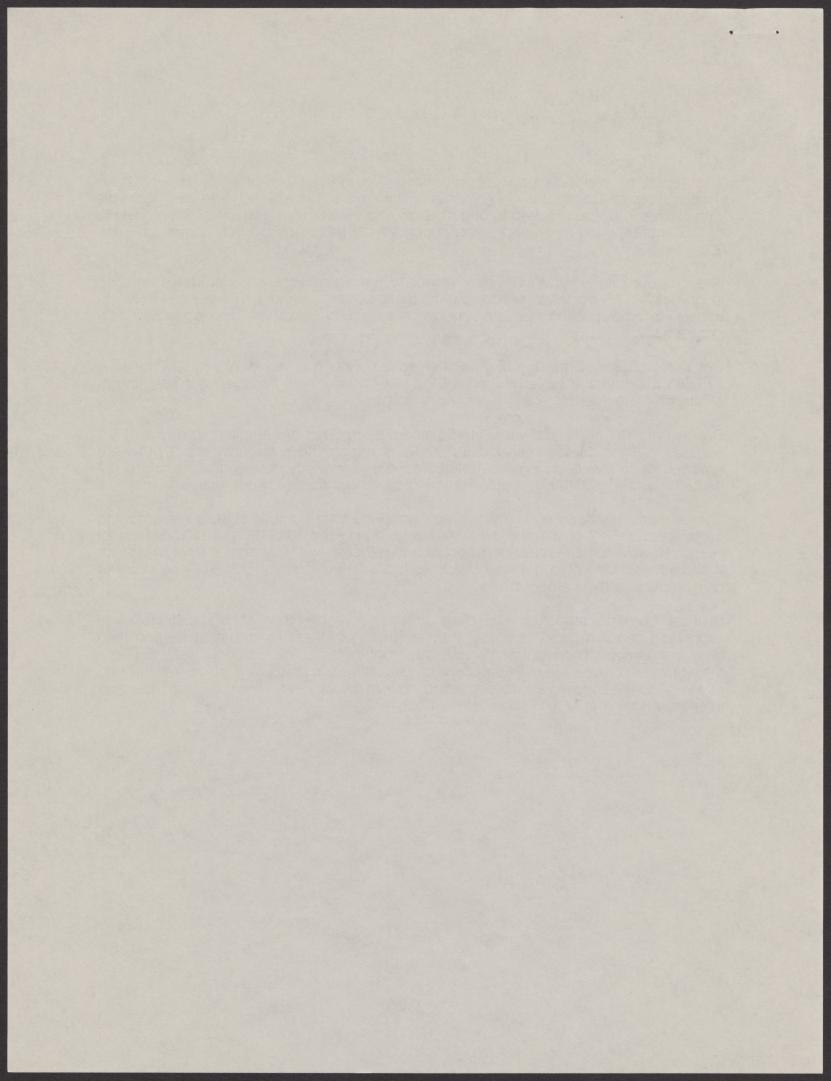


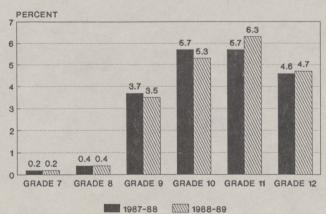
Table 1:

Comparison of Dropout Rates By Grade 1987-88 And 1988-89

	Schoo	<u>) Year 19</u>	87-88	Schoo	1 Year 19	88-89
Grade	Pupil <u>Count</u>	Number of <u>Dropouts</u>	Dropout <u>Rate</u>	Pupil Count	Number of <u>Dropouts</u>	Dropout <u>Rate</u>
7	44,888	94	0.2	44,587	98	0.2
8	44,587	175	0.4	45,279	176	0.4
9	47,865	1,783	3.7	47,229	1,646	3.5
10	47,352	2,696	5.7	44,959	2,399	5.3
11	45,930	2,599	5.7	43,513	2,759	6.3
12	42,638	1,963	4.6	41,699	1,956	4.7
Ungraded	2,359	311	13.2	675	28	4.1
Alternative	5,776	1,835	31.8	7,647	2,411	31.5
Total	281,395	11,456	4.1	275,588	11,473	4.2

- . Grade 11, which historically has had the highest dropout rate, has the highest percent increase in the number of pupils dropping out.
- . The "Ungraded" category shows a decrease in the number of pupils reported in the membership base because districts were encouraged to report pupils within a grade level whenever possible.

Figure 1



DROPOUT RATES BY GRADE 1987-88 AND 1988-89

Figure 2

COUNT OF STUDENT DROPOUTS BY ETHNIC/RACIAL GROUP 1988-89

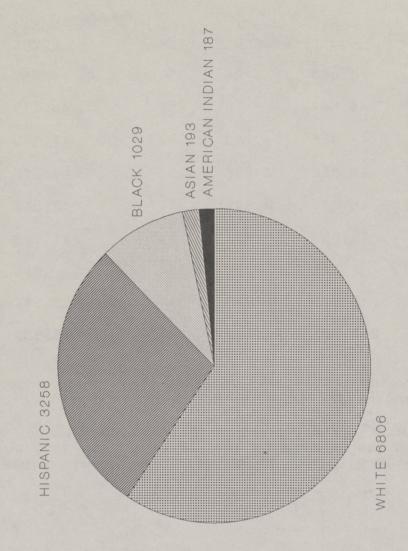


Table 2:

Dropout Rates by Ethnic/Racial Group by Grade, 1987-88 and 1988-89

al <u>/Rate</u>		7.5	7.8		3.1	3.0		6.1	6.8		7.5	7.6		3.2	3.3		4.1	4.2
Total Number/Rate		175	187		201	193		918	1029		3191	3258		6971	6806		11456	11473
ative ./Rate		34.5	33.9		26.7	31.1		38.4	37.5		33.8	34.3		29.3	28.8		31.8	31.5
Alternative Number/Rate		41	58		23	38		257	333		571	750		943	1232		1835	2411
tded ./Rate		21.1	0.0		5.0	0.0		6.0	9.1		11.6	5.3		16.2	3.0		13.1	4.1
Ungraded Number/Rate		4	0		٢	0		24	9		74	10		208	12		311	28
Grade 12 mber/Rate		7.8	6.1		4.6	4.2		5.9	7.5		7.5	7.6		4.1	4.1		4.6	4.7
Grade 12 Number/Rate		19	17		47	42		109	147		365	393		1423	1357		1963	1956
11 /Rate		9.0	8.4		4.9	4.4		7.1	8.8		10.1	10.8		4.9	5.4		5.7	6.3
Grade 11 Number/Rate		29	29		49	50		152	181		584	647		1785	1852		2599	2759
10 <u>/Rate</u>		10.6	11.8		4.2	4.2		7.6	7.3		11.6	9.9		4.4	4.2		5.7	5.3
Grade 10 Number/Rate		43	43		48	45		187	182		831	691		1587	1438		2696	2399
e 9 /Rate		8.0	6.8		2.4	1.2		6.1	5.6		8.2	8.2		2.5	2.2		3.7	3.5
Grade 9 Number/Rate		34	31		25	14		176	157		667	673		881	171		1783	1646
a 8 /Rate		1.0	1.2		0.3	0.3		0.2	0.6		0.8	0.9		0.3	0.3		0.4	0.4
Grade 8 <u>Number/Rate</u>		4	ŝ		m	m		5	15		57	67		106	86		175	176
a 7 /Rate		0.2	1.1		0.5	0.1		0.3	0.3		0.6	0.4		0.1	0.2		0.2	0.2
Grade 7 <u>Number/Rate</u>		t	4		2	-		80	80		42	27		38	58		94	98
ia1	ndian																	
Ethnic/Racial Group	American Indian	1987-88	1988-89	Asian	1987-88	1988-89	Black	1987-88	1988-89	Hispanic	1987-88	1988-89	White	1987-88	1988-89	Total	1987-88	1988-89

to this increase in the grade 11 dropouts was the increase in the number of Black and Hispanic dropouts from grade Historically, grade 11 has had the highest overall dropout rate. During the school year 1988-89, this trend has not only continued but grade 11 also reflected the largest percent change in the number of dropouts. Contributing During the 1987-88 school year the highest dropout rates for Black and Hispanic students occurred in grade 11. 10.

- The largest increase in the dropout rate by ethnic/racial group occurred for Black students, from 6.1 percent in 1987-88 to 6.8 percent in 1988-89.
- The Hispanic student dropout rate increased slightly from 7.5 to 7.6 percent and the American Indian student The Asian student dropout rate decreased from 3.1 to 3.0 dropout rate also increased from 7.5 to 7.8 percent. percent.
- Although the total number of White students dropping out during the 1988-89 school year (6806) was less than 1987-88 (6971), the rate reflected an increase from 3.2 to 3.3 percent because the student membership base was smaller in 1988-89. The total number of White student dropouts accounted for 59.3 percent of all Colorado dropouts in 1988-89.

Table 3:

Dropout Rates by Grade and Sex

		1987-	-88	1988-	89
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Grade 7:	Male Female	47 47	0.2	48 50	0.2
Grade 8:	Male Female	89 86	0.4 0.4	90 86	0.4
Grade 9:	Male	990	4.0	912	3.8
	Female	793	3.4	734	3.2
Grade 10:	Male	1,436	5.9	1,316	5.7
	Female	1,260	5.5	1,083	5.0
Grade 11:	Male	1,415	6.0	1,564	6.9
	Female	1,184	5.3	1,195	5.7
Grade 12:	Male	1,087	5.0	1,139	5.3
	Female	876	4.2	817	4.0
Ungraded:	Male	248	16.3	18	4.6
	Female	63	7.5	10	3.5
Alternative:	Male	949	32.7	1,363	33.5
	Female	886	30.8	1,048	29.2
Total:	Male	6,261	4.3	6,450	4.5
	Female	5,195	3.8	5,023	3.8

- . The total dropout rate for female students remained at 3.8 percent, while the male dropout rate increased from 4.3 percent in 1987-88 to 4.5 percent in 1988-89.
- . The highest dropout rate for both male and female students continued to be from grade 11.

Table 4:

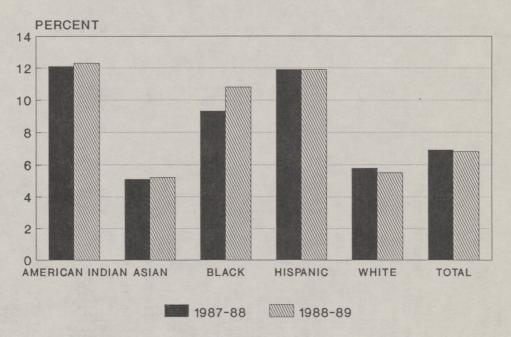
for Grades 10-12 1987-88 1988-89 Pupil Pupil Ethnic/Racial Group Count Dropouts Rate Count Dropouts Rate American Indian 1,100 133 12.1 1,149 141 12.3 Asian 3,274 166 5.1 3,320 173 5.2 **Black** 7,428 688 9.3 7,276 784 10.8 Hispanic 19,929 2,371 11.9 20,105 2,397 11.9 White 111,652 5,849 5.8 105,597 5,784 5.5 Total 143,383 9,207 137,447 6.9 9,279 6.8

Dropout Rates by Ethnic/Racial Group

Note: The 1988-89 dropout rate reported on this table for grades 10-12 includes the data from the alternative schools. Therefore, the rate is different from the state total rate for grades 10-12 reported on page 13, Table 5 which excludes the alternative schools.

Figure 3

DROPOUT RATES BY ETHNIC/RACIAL GROUP FOR GRADES 10-12



988-89	RATE		64544 0.01040 0.010400		3.0		9012128 91212128		3.3		1.9 5.32 0.332		6.4 2.0		4.1 3.1
DL YEAR 1	O T A L DROP OUTS		111 481 175 87 31 31 328		34		182 17 130 195 744 3		17		MONNO		27 2		288 320
SCHOOL	T PUPIL COUNT		2,600 3,069 2,091 437 5,814		1,132		2,152 853 13,274 8,179 8,179 12,995 12,995		508		155 155 169 388 388		419 99		7,062
	CHOOLS RATE		22.7 5.3 17.4 .0 .0 27.2		3.2		17.9 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0		0.				<u>.</u> .		27.3
	TIVE S DROP DUTS		4 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7		00		103 0 0 171 171		0		00000		00		74 0
N	ALTERNA PUPIL COUNT		201 3207 448 2500 2500		03		574 0 478 478		0		00000		00		271 0
DUCATION DES 7 - 11	12 Rate		4.4 8.8 5.7 5.7 11.1 7.1		2.6		26224138 26224138 265291		5.4		3.8 .0 12.5 .0		12.0		5.2
T DF E DR GRA ISTRIC	DROP DROP OUTS		447 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53		13 0		67 124 178 348 348 22		14		00000		55 0		176 284
IRADO DEPARTMEN Dropout rate f By School d	GRAD PUPIL COUNT		1,180 5,064 1,107 1999 113 2,633		499 83		772 6,711 6,711 4,313 5,639 5,639		261		78 825 167 246		209 53		3, 365
CULORAD ANNUAL DRO	9 Rate		0.000 10 0.000 00 0.000 00		3.3		1 001 00140000		1.2		00000		1.0		1.1
ANI	GRADES 7 - L DROP T OUTS		112 112 288 288 74 74		19 0		122 146 225 1		g		00000		20		0 0 0 0
	GRA PUPIL COUNT		1,213 5,123 1,514 1,142 1,142 2,931		570 63		806 553 3,866 3,866 878 81 81		247		77 233 14		210		3,426 4,855
		2	0N 12 142 27J 31J 50	DSA	RE-11J RE-22J	AHDE	825 85 321 321 321 321 321 322 8 322 8 327 8 32 8 32	ARCHULETA	50 JT		RE-1 RE-3 RE-5 FE-5		RE-1 RE-2	DER	RE 1J RE 2
TABLE 5:	DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY: ADAMS	MAPLETON NORTHGLENN-THORNTON ADAMS COUNTY BRIGHTON BENNETT STRASBURG WESTMINSTER	COUNTY: ALAMDS	ALAMOSA SANGRE DE CRISTO	COUNTY: ARAPAHO	ENGLEWOOD SHERIDAN CHERRY CREEK LITTLETON DEER TRAIL ADAMS-ARAPAHOE BYERS	CDUNTY: ARCHU	ARCHULETA COUNTY	COUNTY: BACA	WALSH PRITCHETT SPRINGFIELD VILAS CAMPD	COUNTY: BENT	LAS ANIMAS MC CLAVE	COUNTY: BOULDER	ST. VRAIN VALLEY Boulder Valley

1988-89	RATE		3.8 4.3		1.2		1.0		6.6 .7 2.5		0.0		3.6		1.1		4.0		8.2		0.	
SCHOOL YEAR 1	O T A L DROP OUTS		19 27		90		7		37		01		10		8		76		2,330		0	
SCHOO	T PUPIL COUNT		494 632		57 171		685		564 148 239		181 117		279		190		1,880		28,505		160	
	OLS Rate		<u></u>		•••		0.		0.0. 		•••		0.		0.		0.		6.8 2		0.	
	VE SCHOO DROP OUTS R		00		00		0		14 51 0 0		00		0		0		0		881 3		0	
	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS PUPIL DROP COUNT DUTS RAT		00		00		0		27 0 0		00		0		0		•		2,393		0	
CATION 7 - 12	12 Rate		6.6 7.1		2.6		.6		7.2		2.0		4.6		1.1		6.1		8.3		0.	
T OF EDUC DR GRADES ISTRICT	10 - RDP UTS		17 22		90		8		18 3 1 8		01		9		1		60		965		•	
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Ual dropout rate for grades 7 - By School district	GRADES PUPIL COUNT COUNT COUNT		259 309		25 82		310		251 69 116		91 50		130		94		977		11,684		84	
OLORADO I	RATE		1.5		•••		1.3		1.7 2.4		•••		2.7		1.0		1.8		3.4		0.	
ANNUA	GRADES 7 - 9 IL DROP VT OUTS		01 10		00		ß		မာဝတ		00		+		1		16		484		0	
	GRAI PUPIL COUNT		235 323		32 89		375		286 79 123		90		149		96		903		14,428		76	
			R-31 R-32		R-1 RE-5	CREEK	RE-1		RE-1J 6J RE-10		R-1 R-30		RE-1-J		.1		(r)05				RE N0.2	
		CHAFFEE		CHEYENNE		CLEAR CRE	R	CONEJOS		COSTILLA		CROWLEY		CUSTER	C-1	DELTA	50	DENVER	1	DOLORES		
TABLE 5:	DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY:	BUENA VISTA Salida	COUNTY:	KIT CARSON CHEYENNE COUNTY	COUNTY:	CLEAR CREEK	COUNTY:	NORTH CONEJOS SANFORD SOUTH CONEJOS	COUNTY:	CENTENNIAL SIERRA GRANDE	COUNTY:	CROWLEY COUNTY	CDUNTY: (CONSOLIDATED	COUNTY: 1	DELTA COUNTY	COUNTY: 1	DENVER COUNTY	COUNTY: [DOLORES COUNTY	

68 -	ш		3		1				<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>		814		644
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SCHOOL YEAR	T O T A DROP OUTS		72		22		9 8 0 8 0 1 1		00 00 410 00 40 04 00 410 04 00 04 00 04 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		61 19		124
SCHI	PUPIL		5,432		1,032		619 90 132 61 28		4, 182 3, 968 15, 595 15, 553 15, 553 1, 127 1, 127 1, 123 1, 123		1,662 902 128		1,413 1,032 194
	CHOOLS RATE		0.		0.				22 50 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20		<u></u>		<u></u>
	TIVE S DROP DUTS		•		0		00000		04000000000000000000000000000000000000		000		000
12	ALTERNA PUPIL COUNT		•		0		00000		00000000000000000000000000000000000000		000		000
ATION	12 RATE		2.6		3.8		ດສຸດ ເຊິ່ງ		40000 4004040 00204000000002000		20.4 40.4		5.4 4.5 4.6
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AN	GRADES 7 - L DROP T OUTS		4		ŝ		000		0.00401011100 0.00401011100		17 1 0		15
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		DOUGLAS	RE 1	GLE	RE 50	ELBERT	C-1 200 3000	PASO	RJ-1 2 3 3 3 3 11 14 14 20 22 23 3 1 4 5 4 5 4 5 1 1 7	FREMONT	RE-1 RE-2 RE-3	GARFIELD	RE-1 RE-2 16
TABLE 5:	DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY: DO	DOUGLAS COUNTY	CDUNTY: EAGLI	EAGLE COUNTY	COUNTY: EL	ELIZABETH KIDWA BIG Sandy Elbert Agate	COUNTY: EL	CALHAN HARRISON WIDEFIELD FOUNTAIN COLORADO SPRINGS CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN MANITOU SPRINGS CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY ACADEMY FELLICOTT FELLICOTT FELLICOTT FALLON HAMOVER FALCON EDISON MIAMI/YODER	COUNTY: FRI	CANDN CITY Florence Cotopaxi	COUNTY: GAI	ROARING FORK Garfield Garfield

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SCHOOL YEAR	T O T A DROP OUTS	60		8 11		O		00		*		1,253		eo 11		00044		20		401
SCH	PUPIL	201		262 473		644		441 136		172		35,499		139 41		118 62 125 379		513		1,854 315 470
	HOOLS RATE	0		<u></u>		0.		<u></u>		0.		20.2		<u></u>		•••••		0.		28.0
	ATIVE SCHOOLS DROP OUTS RATE	c	•	00		0		00		•		104		00		00000		0		001
12	ALTERNA PUPIL COUNT	C	•	00		0		00		•		516		00		00000		•		5500
UCATION ES 7 - 1	12 Rate	7.0		6.3 8.3		2.6		6 .0		4.0		5.3		4.1 5.6				6.9		3.7 1.8 1.8
PARTMENT OF EDUCATION Rate for grades 7 - Chool district	DES 10 - DROP DUTS	ĸ	,	10		00		00		m		926		5		00490		17		\$04
DRADO DEPARTMEN Dropout rate f By School c	GRAC PUPIL COUNT	88		128 233		313		212 74		75		17,612		74 18		58 34 51 28 188		248		909 155 217
COLORAD ANNUAL DRO	9 RATE	4	•	o. * .		ю.		* .0.		1.0		1.3		<u>.</u> .		00000		1.1		1.1 .0 1.3
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TABLE 5:	DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY:	COUNTY:	WEST GRAND East grand	COUNTY:	GUNNISON WATERSHED	COUNTY:	HUERFAND La veta	COUNTY:	NORTH PARK	COUNTY:	JEFFERSON COUNTY	COUNTY:	EADS PLAINVIEW	COUNTY:	ARRIBA-FLAGLER HI-PLAINS Stratton Bethune Burlington	COUNTY:	LAKE COUNTY	COUNTY:	DURANGD Bayfield Ignacio

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT COLORADO DROPOUT RATES

Who Is Considered a Colorado Dropout?

By Colorado law, a dropout is a "person who leaves school for any reason, except death, before completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent and who does not transfer to another public or private school or enroll in an approved home study program." A student is <u>not</u> a dropout if he/she transfers to an educational program recognized by the district, completes a G.E.D. or registers in a program leading to a G.E.D., is committed to an institution that maintains educational programs, or is so ill that he/she is unable to participate in a homebound or special therapy program.

Who Is a Transfer?

A student is considered a transfer to another district or educational program if the receiving school or program sends for the student's records, <u>or</u> if the sending district can document that the parent or legal guardian has provided information regarding the school or education program into which the student is transferring. This definition of a transfer is in accordance with the Public School Finance Act of 1988, 22-53-207(3).

What If a Student Just Disappears?

A student who disappears from school is considered a dropout unless the student transferred to another educational program.

What Is the Dropout Rate?

The Colorado dropout rate is an <u>annual</u> rate, reflecting the percentage of all students enrolled in grades 7-12 who leave school during a single school year. It is calculated by dividing the number of dropouts by a membership base which includes all students who were in membership any time during the year.

Can the Dropout Rate Be Multiplied by Four to Find Out How Many Students Drop Out Over the Four Years of High School?

No. The dropout rate is an annual rate only. It is not statistically valid to simply multiply the annual rate by four to find out how many students dropped out during high school. The graduation rate, however, provides a measure of how many students completed graduation requirements.

Can a Student Drop Out More Than Once? How Does That Affect the Annual Dropout Rate?

Some students have a pattern of dropping out and returning to school several times before they either graduate or drop out and do not return. In the state reporting system, a student is counted as a dropout <u>only once</u> within a given reporting period (i.e., from July 1 through June 30). However, if a student drops out during one school year, then returns to school the following year and drops out again, he/she will be counted in the dropout rate two years in a row.

How Valid Are Colorado's Dropout Rates?

The Colorado Department of Education provides definitions, guidelines, and training regarding the proper procedures for identifying and reporting dropout statistics. The data are edited and screened upon receipt and a turnaround document with the calculated rates is returned to the district for verification. In submitting the data to the state, each superintendent signs an assurance that the district has followed the required procedures. Dropout statistics are not currently audited by the Department.

How Are Dropout Data Reported?

Dropout data are reported annually to the Department by Colorado school districts. Dropout data are collected for grades 7-12, by school building and by district. Data are reported separately by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade level of students.

How Does Colorado's Dropout Rate Compare to the National Average?

Currently, there is no national dropout data collection. The National Center for Education Statistics is in the process of developing and pilot testing a proposed national system expected to be implemented in the 1991-92 school year.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Data published in this report were obtained from all Colorado public schools having any grades 7-12. A sample of CDE Form 2, the collection instrument utilized to collect the data from each grade level, is on page 17. Data collected on these forms were then summarized for reporting in the various formats.

Data for alternative schools in some tables are reported separately. This provides additional information for those districts' schools that are established to give students who are dropouts or potential dropouts an alternative to the regular program. The alternative schools data also includes those Second Chance Programs operated by districts and Boards of Cooperative Services. However, it does not include any educational programs for dropouts that are incorporated as part of the regular high school program.

Beginning with the class of 1990 the Colorado Department of Education will report graduation and completion rates as part of this dropout report. Rates for each class will be calculated based on information reported on the CDE-2 End-of-Year Pupil Membership Form.

SAMPLE OF DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

Colorado Department of Education Planning and Evaluation Unit 201 East Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80203 PART II - SCHOOL REPORT DROPOUTS END OF YEAR PUPIL MEMBERSHIP July 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989

DUE DATE: End of school year or no later than July 10, 1989

Telephone: 866-6837

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July 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989	July 1	1989 END OF YEAR COUNT			
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Name of Person Preparing Report

COR DARU	FORM CLEARANCE	MANDATORY
1931	Planning ar	d Evaluation

Title

Telephone Number