

Iowa Department of Education

Decision Matrix

for

Student Program and Dropout Status

Issuance of Diplomas

Assessing and Reporting Student Performance

and Funding

Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS) Reporting

DEFINITIONS

Alternative High School:

- ◆ Approved as a separate learning environment in the organizational structure by the local school board.
- ◆ Has appropriate licensed staff.
- ◆ Provides a comprehensive program (offerings accumulate to high school graduation/diploma) for students.
- ◆ Attendance is parents/students choice as approved by the local district(s).
- ◆ Awards a regular diploma with the school district identified as approved by the local school board.
- ◆ Is administered through a local school district and not administered by a community college/university. (Administered meaning that the school district hires staff and supervises staff offering high school credit classes.) Offerings (courses and classes) may be provided by a community college, four-year college/university, and other private entities as approved by the local board and be credited to students for high school graduation with diplomas provided by local school districts. Classes and courses provided are evaluated by local administrators to assure that they meet local standards of content and student performance. (Colleges cannot award high school diplomas but can credit students for completion of college-level courses.)
- ◆ Alternative school is responsible for “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) and state-level reporting requirements for district resident students attending the alternative school building. All other student scores are reported by the sending district.

Alternative Program: All support initiatives provided students that do not meet the criteria of alternative school.

- ◆ Program does not constitute a complete high school experience and students must complete other coursework to achieve a high school education.
- ◆ Classes/courses are provided to address specific student needs.
- ◆ Locally administered and approved as a dropout prevention initiative by the local school board.
- ◆ Classes/courses provided within local school buildings or may be provided through consortiums including other local schools, community colleges, four-year colleges/universities, and private entities based on local agreements. Classes and courses provided are evaluated by local administrators to assure that they meet local standards of content and student performance and are effective in meeting student needs.
- ◆ Student performance for NCLB (state-level) is reported as part of the attending school or resident district if different than attending district.

Regular Diploma*: The student meets the local district requirements for graduation for all students.

Other Diploma*: Local district requirements have been modified for specific students with an IEP.

Other Completer: Local district awards a certificate of completion or attendance (i.e., foreign exchange students).

School refers to public attendance centers.

District refers to public school districts.

Attending District: Public school district where a student is attending school.

*These diplomas are “counted” in figuring the graduation rate.

Decision Matrix

Student Program Status	Student Dropout Status	Assessment and Reporting	Diplomas	Funding & Graduation Criteria	Basic Educational Data Survey
District student attends alternative school-administered by local district for local school students.	Student from sending schools within the district are not considered dropouts.	Assessment data (8th and 11th grade) for AYP submitted for the alternative school as a separate school.	Diploma provided by alternative school or sending school. Students counted in graduation rate of district/school.	Administering district utilizes state aid and local support for district enrolled students.	Attending district reports enrollment and curriculum for the student.
Out of district student attends an alternative school administered by another district.	Student from sending school not considered a dropout.	Assessment data (8th and 11th grade) for AYP sent back to sending schools/districts.	Diploma provided by sending district or alternative school. Students are counted in graduation rate of sending district/school.	Sending district provides funding to administering district via shared agreement. Agreement between districts includes provisions for how graduation requirements will be met and how proper certification of staff will be assured.	Attending district reports enrollment and curriculum for the student.
District student enrolled in alternative program administered by local district.	Student not considered a dropout.	Assessment data (8th and 11th grade) for AYP sent back and reported by sending schools/districts.	Diploma provided by the sending school within the district. Students issued diplomas are counted in graduation rate.	Administering district utilizes state aid and local support for district enrolled students.	Attending district reports enrollment and curriculum for the student.
Out of district student attends alternative program administered by another district.	Student is not considered a dropout.	Assessment data for AYP (8th and 11th grade) is sent back and reported by sending schools/districts.	Diploma provided by sending district. Students counted in graduation rate of sending district/school.	Sending district provides funding to administering district via a shared agreement. Agreement between districts includes provisions for how graduation requirements will be met and how proper certification of staff will be assured.	Attending district reports enrollment and curriculum for the student if student is enrolled full-time. Otherwise, sending district reports enrollment and curriculum.

Student Program Status	Student Dropout Status	Assessment and Reporting	Diplomas	Funding & Graduation Criteria	Basic Educational Data Survey
Student attends alternative program administered by community college.	Student not considered a dropout.	Assessment data (8th and 11th grade) for AYP sent back to sending districts/schools.	Diploma provided by sending district. Students issued diplomas are counted in graduation rate of sending district/school.	Sending district provides funding to administering college via shared agreement. Agreement between district and community college includes provisions for how graduation requirements will be met and how proper certification of staff will be assured.	Sending district reports enrollment and curriculum for student identified in agreement provisions.
Student enrolled in GED program administered via community college.	Student is considered a dropout. Student not counted in local school/district enrollment.	Assessment data (11th grade) not required for reporting by local district.	High school equivalency diploma issued by community college in coordination with the state.	Program funded via state support for GED. Administered through the Division of Community Colleges, Department of Education.	Enrollment and curriculum not collected. Student reported on the dropout report for the last attending district.
Student enrolled in adult high school diploma program-administered by community college.	Student is considered a dropout. Student not counted in local school/district enrollment.	Assessment data (11th grade) not required for reporting by local district.	Adult high school diploma is awarded through community college (ages 18+).	Program funded by local community college and federal funds administered through the Division of Community Colleges, Department of Education.	Enrollment and curriculum not collected. Student reported on the dropout report for the last attending district.
Not enrolled in LEA or other LEA school after leaving school in local school district.	Student is considered a dropout.	No reporting of student performance on AYP.	No diploma issued by local district.	No funding.	Student reported on the dropout report for the last attending district.

Notes: Community college administered activities are all considered programs in this matrix.

- ◆ High school diplomas are issued by local school districts only.
- ◆ High school equivalency diplomas and adult high school diplomas are issued by community colleges directed by Iowa legislation.
- ◆ One hundred percent of eligible public school students (grades 8 and 11) are expected to be tested.
- ◆ A 95 percent participation rate in testing is required for AYP purposes. All students must be given the opportunity (physical presence) to engage fully in testing.
- ◆ Someone must be assigned responsibility for organizing participation in testing and reporting information.
- ◆ Sending schools in this matrix are the schools/districts of residence for the students involved.
- ◆ Graduation rate: Students who graduate in the summer are to be included with other graduates within the four-year cohort (students starting grade 9 and continuing through grade 12).
- ◆ Grade levels for students are determined by local districts based on completion of expected standards for graduation.
- ◆ Support services should continue for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) entering an alternative school or program.
- ◆ Provisions for support should be clarified within agreements between districts and between districts and community colleges.
- ◆ Attending District: Student can be enrolled in one district for generating state aid and receive instruction in another district. The district providing instruction is considered the "attending district."
- ◆ Enrollment: Students can be enrolled in one district for generating state aid and receive instruction in another district. Under the BEDS, reported enrollment means the enrollment count of where the student receives instruction. Enrollment counts for state aid are generated in the Certified Enrollment Report, which is separate from BEDS.