

# Using the National Center for Education Statistics Dropout Definition for Texas Leaver Reporting

## Introduction

This document provides a summary of the changes required to implement legislation passed in 2003 to use the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) dropout definition for Texas leaver reporting. Specifically, the changes described below pertain to the counting and reporting of annual dropouts in grades 7-12.

## Background

In 2003, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 186 which amended the language on the dropout indicator in the Texas public school Academic Excellence Indicator system. The indicator is specified as follows:

“dropout rates, including dropout rates and district completion rates for grade levels 9 through 12, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics [NCES] of the United States Department of Education” (Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.051(b)(2)).

In the 2005-06 school year, districts will begin collecting information according to the new dropout definition and procedures on students in grades 7-12 who leave. School districts will begin submitting data using the new definition and procedures in 2006-07.

## Definition of a Leaver

A leaver is a student who is enrolled in Texas public school in grades 7-12 and does not return to Texas public school on the first day of school in the following fall. A student who moves or officially transfers from one Texas public school district to another is not counted as a leaver. A leaver may be a student who graduates, receives a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, continues high school outside the Texas public school system or begins college, is expelled, dies, or drops out (see Table A-1).

## Definition of a Dropout

A dropout is a student who is enrolled in Texas public school in grades 7-12, does not return to Texas public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not graduate, receive a GED, continue high school outside the Texas public school system or begin college, or die.

## Summary of Changes

### ***Leaver reason codes***

*Rules.* The leaver reason codes have been modified to match the NCES definition (see Table A-2). Some codes have been deleted, some have been consolidated, and some have been changed from “non-dropout” to dropout reason codes. A major change is the counting of students who leave to earn their GED certificates. Under the NCES definition, students who leave to attend GED programs are counted as dropouts unless they receive their GEDs by August 31st. For example, students who leave during the 2005-06 school year and earn their GEDs by August 31, 2006, are not counted as dropouts.

Students who move to other Texas public school districts are not reported using leaver reason codes. School districts may confirm that students have moved to other Texas public school districts by searching the Person Identification Database (PID) Enrollment Tracking (PET). Districts are not required to maintain documentation of students who enroll in other Texas public school districts. PET may be used to establish tentative local documentation that students have moved to other Texas public school districts. The final determination of whether students are movers will be made by TEA. Students who intend to enroll in other Texas public school districts but do not are counted as dropouts unless the district obtains documentation that the students have other valid leaver reasons.

Students who move to other districts in the summer must be enrolled during the school-start window the following fall. Please see *Return Date or School-Start Window for Returning Students*.

*Changes in PEIMS reporting.* The leaver reason code table has been revised (see Table A-2). The revised code table is available to school districts in Appendix F of the *2005-06 PEIMS Data Standards*. School districts submit enrollment and withdrawal records to an extension of the EDIT+ PID application so that student moves between Texas public school districts are tracked statewide.

*Effective date.* School districts will collect leaver information on students leaving in 2005-06 according to the new definition and procedures. The 2005-06 leavers are reported using the new leaver reason codes in the 2006-07 PEIMS Submission 1.

### ***Reconciled dropouts and leavers***

*Rules.* Three categories of dropouts that were removed from the state accountability dropout count are no longer removed under the NCES definition: previous dropouts, duplicate records, and students ineligible for funding. All students who drop out are counted as dropouts regardless of their average daily attendance (ADA) eligibility. To be in compliance with the NCES definition, all students who drop out, regardless of ADA eligibility code, are included in the dropout count.

*Changes in PEIMS reporting.* There are no changes. School districts report all students who drop out, and TEA modifies its procedures for calculating dropout counts.

*Effective date.* The changes will take effect for students who leave in 2005-06 and are reported in the 2006-07 PEIMS Submission 1.

## **Matching the Denominator and the Numerator**

*NCES rules.* The denominator for NCES dropout rates is enrollment on the fall “snapshot” date.

*State rules.* The state dropout rate calculation uses cumulative enrollment for the school year as a denominator. Cumulative enrollment is a count of all students for whom attendance or enrollment is reported. Students who are served but not in membership are no longer excluded from the denominator. Students not in membership will be extracted from PEIMS Submission 1 enrollment and added to the denominator to bring the numerator and denominator in alignment. See Attachment B.

*Changes in PEIMS reporting.* There are no changes.

*Effective date.* Counting students not in membership in the denominator will take effect with the 2005-06 dropout rate which is first reported in 2006-07.

## **Return Date or School-Start Window for Returning Students**

*Rules.* Students must return during the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September to be counted as having returned to school. This period is the school-start window. Students who do not return during the school-start window are reported and counted as dropouts. Migrant students are counted as returning students, not dropouts, regardless of return date.

For students who leave during the school year, leaver reasons apply at the time of withdrawal. The NCES definition of a dropout is based on a strict one-year cycle and so, for students who fail to return, leaver reasons apply on the first day of school or its approximation, the school-start window.

*Changes in PEIMS reporting.* Students' enrollment statuses are reported for three days or intervals during the school year: the school-start window, the fall as-of or "October snapshot" date, and the final day of school. Enrollment status previously collected only in PEIMS Submission 1 is collected in both PEIMS Submissions 1 and 3.

*Effective date.* Districts report final day enrollment status in the 2005-06 PEIMS Submission 3 and school-start window enrollment status in the 2006-07 PEIMS Submission 1. See Attachment C.

## **GED recipients**

*Rules.* Students who leave school but earn their GED certificates by August 31st are counted as GED recipients for the preceding school year. For example, students who leave during the 2005-06 school year and earn their GEDs by August 31, 2006, are not counted as dropouts. August 31st is also the date by which students must receive their diplomas to be counted as graduates.

*Changes in PEIMS reporting.* In-state GED recipients in the reporting year are not reported as leavers.

*Effective date.* The changes will take effect with students leaving during and after the 2005-06 school year.

## ***Attribution of Summer Dropouts***

*NCES Rules.* According to the NCES definition, students who finish the school year and do not return the next year are counted as dropouts from the year for which they fail to return. Summer dropouts are attributed to the next school year for the counts submitted to NCES.

*State Rules.* For state accountability purposes, summer dropouts are attributed to the school year just completed.

*Changes in PEIMS reporting.* In order to identify summer dropouts, districts submit enrollment status on the final day of the school year. Students' enrollment statuses are reported for three days or intervals during the school year: the school-start window, the fall as-of or "October snapshot" date, and the final day of school. Enrollment status is collected in PEIMS Submission 3 in addition to PEIMS Submission 1. See Attachment C.

*Effective date.* Districts will first report final day enrollment status in the 2005-06 PEIMS Submission 3.

## **Resources**

See the following in the *2005-2006 PEIMS Data Standards*:

- Record type 101
- Record type 203
- Data elements 1002
- Code table 162
- Code table 163
- Appendix F

## Attachment A Changes to Leaver Reason Codes

**Table A-1  
New Leaver Reason Code Table**

Code	Description
01*	Graduated
03*	Died
16*	Return to home country
24*	College, pursue degree
60*	Home schooling
66*	Removed by Child Protective Services
78*	Expelled, cannot return
81*	Enroll in Texas private school
82*	Enroll in school outside Texas
83*	Administrative withdrawal
85*	Graduated outside Texas, returned, left again
86*	Received GED outside Texas
98	Other (unknown or not listed)

\*School leavers coded with this LEAVER-REASON-CODE are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

## Table A-2 Leaver Reason Code Changes

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### Change from non-dropout to dropout leaver code and delete

The following circumstances for departure are considered dropout reasons. These codes will be deleted; students leaving for these reasons will be reported using leaver reason code 98.

19	Failed exit TAAS <sup>a</sup> or TAKS <sup>b</sup> met graduation requirements
22	Alternative program, working toward diploma or certificate
72	Court-ordered alternative program

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### Delete non-dropout code and report as a move to other educational setting, as appropriate

Students who leave for the following circumstances are served by the receiving district or facility and should be reported as moves to another educational setting, as appropriate.

30	Enter health-care facility
61	Incarcerated outside district

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### Delete and use automated system to track

Students who leave for the following reasons can be tracked using the state's educational and General Educational Development (GED) databases and will not be reported by the district to the agency through PEIMS.

21	Official transfer to other Texas district
31	Completed GED certificate
63	Graduated, returned, left again
64	Completed GED certificate, returned, left again
80	Enroll in another Texas public school district

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### Delete and replace with one dropout reason code

The following codes will be consolidated into one code for all dropout reasons: LEAVER-REASON-CODE 98.

02	Pursue job or job training
04	Join the military
08	Pregnancy
09	Marriage
10	Alcohol or other drug abuse problem
14	Age
15	Homeless or non-permanent resident
79	Student expelled, can return, has not
84	Academic performance
99	Other (unknown or not listed)

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### No change in non-dropout code

01	Graduated
03	Died
16	Return to home country
24	College, pursue degree
60	Home schooling
66	Removed by Child Protective Services
78	Expelled, cannot return
81	Enroll in Texas private school
82	Enroll in school outside Texas
83	Administrative withdrawal

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### New leaver codes

These codes are being added.

85	Graduated outside Texas, returned, left again
86	GED outside Texas
98	Other (unknown or not listed)

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<sup>a</sup>Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. <sup>b</sup>Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

## Attachment B Denominator Calculations

**Table B-1  
NCES and State Denominator Calculations**

Definition	Record	Data Element	Code
Enrollment on fall "snapshot" date <sup>a</sup>	110	E0787 ADA-ELIGIBILITY-CODE	C059 codes 0-6
Cumulative enrollment	110	E0787 ADA-ELIGIBILITY-CODE	C059 code 0
	400	All students in membership	n/a <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Last Friday in October. <sup>b</sup>Not applicable.

## Attachment C Enrollment Statuses

**Table C-1**  
**AS-OF-STATUS-CODE reporting requirements for 2005-06 and 2006-07**

Year	Codes used in	
	PEIMS Submission 1	PEIMS Submission 3
2005-06		
Grades EE-06	1	X
Grades 7-12	0, 1, 2	H, I
2006-07		
Grades EE-06	X	X
Grades 7-12	A, B, C, D, E, F, G	H, I

**Table C-2**  
**AS-OF-STATUS-CODE table for 2005-06 PEIMS Submission 3 and 2006-07 PEIMS Submissions 1 and 3**

Code	Description
<b>Grades EE-06. Use for Submissions 1 and 3.</b>	
X	For all students in Grades EE-06.
<b>Grades 7-12. Use for Submission 1.</b>	
A	Student was enrolled in the district during the prior school year but has never enrolled during the current year
B	Student was enrolled in the district within the school-start window and was enrolled on the fall as-of date
C	Student was enrolled in the district within the school-start window and was not enrolled on the fall as-of date
D	Student was enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was not enrolled within the school-start window in the current school year and was enrolled on the fall as-of date in the current school year
E	Student was enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was enrolled in the district in the current year but not within the school-start window and not on the fall as-of date
F	Student was not enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was not enrolled within the school-start window in the current school year and was enrolled on the fall as-of date in the current school year
G	Student was not enrolled in the district in the prior school year, was enrolled in the district in the current year but not within the school-start window and not on the fall as-of date
<b>Grades 7-12. Use for Submission 3.</b>	
H	Student was enrolled in the district on the final day of the school year
I	Student was enrolled in the district at some time during the year, but not on the final day of the school year.