

School District 27J Board Goal 1.1

To: Board of Education, School District 27J

From: Superintendent of Schools

Re: Goal – 1.1 Graduation/Completer Rate

I hereby present my report regarding the expectations of the Board on Policy 1.1 Graduation/Completer Rate in accordance with the monitoring schedule as set forth in Board policy. I certify the information in this report is true.

Signed:

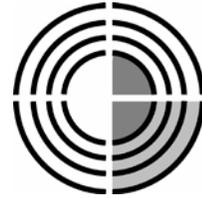


Dr. Chris Fiedler, Superintendent

February 25, 2014



COLORADO SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J
GOVERNING POLICY OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Board Goal: Academic 1.1

Date Adopted/Last Revised: January 27, 2009

- 1.1 The graduation rate will increase by 2% per year until 95% is attained at which it will not drop lower.

I interpret graduation rate to mean: the same as the definition from the Colorado Department of Education: The graduation rate is a cumulative or longitudinal rate which calculates the number of students who actually graduate as a percent of those who were in membership and could have graduated over a four-year period. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the membership base. The membership base is derived from the end-of-year count of eighth graders four years earlier and adjusted for the number of students who have transferred into or out of the district during the years covering grades 9 through 12. Graduation rates are calculated based on high school graduates only. A graduate is a student who completed locally-defined requirements for graduation. If a student is not considered a graduate by the local board of education, then he/she is not included in the graduation rate calculation.

I interpret completer rate to mean: the same as the definition from the Colorado Department of Education: The Completer Rate is a cumulative or longitudinal rate which calculates the number of students who graduate, receive certificates or other designations of high school completion. It is also calculated as a percent of those who were in membership and could have graduated or completed over a four-year period (i.e., from Grades 9-12). Completer rates are calculated based on all students who are graduates, plus those who are not considered graduates but receive another certificate or designation of high school completion.

Achievement of Goal 1.1: Graduation

Data Reported

Graduation rate is calculated based on October count and graduation data, according to a formula followed by the Colorado Department of Education “Rules for the Administration of Colorado Data Reporting for School Accreditation.”

This report on the expectations of the Board through Goal 1.1 presents historical graduation rate data, as the goal requires an increase in the graduation rate over time. Graduation rate calculation has been revised by the Colorado Department of Education. The revisions since 2005 are documented below.

Prior to the 2005-2006 school year, a student leaving high school to pursue a General Equivalency Degree (GED) was treated as a transfer and did not affect the graduation rate calculation. Beginning with the 2006 graduating class, a student exiting to the General Equivalency Degree (GED) program would be kept in the graduation rate denominator, thereby reducing the graduation rate for their graduating class. As a result of this change in the formula, graduation rates in 27J, as in most districts and for the state as a whole, went down considerably in 2006.

Beginning with the 2010 graduating class, Colorado began calculating a four year graduation rate, a five year, a six year and a seven year graduation rate. Colorado has maintained that calculation structure. The formula and methodology are based on the standards set by the National Governors Association “Graduation Counts Compact.”

For the purposes of this report, we have included multiple years of graduation data, so that the impact of the changing criterion in 2005 can be clearly seen. Complete graduation and dropout statistics for the state can be found on the Colorado Education Statistics and Data website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/gradcurrent>

Table 1: School District 27J Total Four Year Graduation Rate

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Colorado Graduation Rate %	82.5	80.1	74.1	75.0	73.9	74.6	72.4	73.9	75.4	76.9
Total District Graduation Rate %	84.5	80.6	66.6	71.5	66.6	71.7	72.9	72.9	71.5	79.2
Brighton Heritage Academy %	60.0	25.0	11.7	17.2	9.8	13.6	8.1	7.4	9.7	14.0
Brighton High School %	87.0	88.0	84.8	88.6	85.2	84.4	87.5	80.6	73.8	81.7
Eagle Ridge Academy %								86.7	77.8	92.7
Prairie View High School %						88.8	80.8	78.9	79.6	82.9

As can be seen from the table above, the graduation rate for 2013 for 27J increased. Increases occurred at every school. This metric of growth does meet the goal of the 2% increase required by the 27J Board of Education Goals, but leaves the target of a 95% graduation rate still not accomplished. In addition to the total graduation rate, the data is also disaggregated by student gender and ethnicity group. In the table below, the graduation rates are exhibited by the student groups for which School District 27J has enrollments large enough make the data statistically significant.

Table 2: 27J Graduation Rate by Gender and Ethnicity by Percentage

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
All Students	84.5	80.6	66.6	71.5	66.6	71.7	72.9	72.9	71.5	79.2
All White Students	89.2	87.0	73.4	78.4	69.7	80.2	79.5	78.4	80.5	83.9
White Female	94.1	84.2	76.9	85.5	75.6	80.9	84.3	85.3	82.7	90.4
White Male	84.3	90.0	69.9	72.1	63.6	79.4	74.6	72.6	78.5	77.6
All Hispanic Students	75.2	72.2	55.0	60.4	60.0	66.7	65.3	67.2	62.6	72.8
Hispanic Female	83.0	82.7	67.0	66.1	64.1	66.7	70.7	79.3	72.1	79.4
Hispanic Male	69.4	61.5	45.2	54.8	55.9	53.7	60.4	54.4	54.3	66.5

The graduation rate of our Hispanic students continues to trail behind the graduation rate for Caucasian students, with a difference of 11.1 percentage points. This gap decreased this year, dropping from 17.9 percentage points in 2012 to 11.1 percentage points in 2013. The lowest

percentage School District 27J demographic graduation rate is that of Hispanic males, at 66.5 percent.

The table following shows our graduation rates in comparison to the state and other Adams County districts, beginning with the largest county cohort, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, to the smallest county cohort in Strasburg. In most instances, we compare ourselves to the Adams County school districts in the metropolitan area.

Table 3: Graduation Rates of Adams County Districts

	2013 Graduates Base numbers	2013 Graduation Rate	2012 Graduation Rate
Colorado (%)	60,777	73.9	75.4
Adams 12 Five Star (%)	2,972	73.7	69.9
School District 27J (%)	952	79.2	71.5
Adams 50 Westminster (%)	616	64.0	60.5
Adams 1 Mapleton (%)	577	47.8	42.5
Adams 14 Commerce City (%)	524	59.4	63.4
Bennett 29J (%)	70	84.3	91.2
Strasburg (%)	65	81.5	84.4

School District 27J continues to lead the large metro area school districts in Adams County in graduation rate. The smaller rural districts of Bennett and Strasburg do have higher graduation rates but both of these smaller districts have small numbers of students in the cohort group, and have different challenges than larger districts.

The table below presents the graduation rate for all Adams County school districts' total graduation rate compared to the Hispanic male graduation rate. This year Adams 12 Five Star Schools and Adams 14 Hispanic males are achieving closer to their cohort of all graduates in graduation rate. The 27J target is to have all ethnic groups achieve the graduation expectations outlined by the 27J Board of Education. The data listed in Table 4 provides a measurement to benchmark the expectation of achievement for all ethnic groups with the sub group that has the lowest graduation rate in School District 27J.

Table 4: Adams County Hispanic Male Graduation Rate

	Hispanic Male Base Numbers	Graduation Rate (%)	2013 Hispanic Male Graduation (%)	2012 Hispanic Male Graduation (%)	2011 Hispanic Male Graduation (%)
Colorado	8,954	76.9	60.9	57.1	55.6
School District 27J	206	79.2	66.5	54.3	54.4
Adams 12 Five Star	483	73.7	67.5	62.1	52.2
Adams 50 Westminster	201	64.0	53.7	51.7	53.3
Adams 14 Commerce City	210	59.4	57.1	51.4	58.4
Adams 1 Mapleton	188	47.8	34.0	32.8	37.4
Strasburg	4	81.5	100	40.0	80.0
Bennett 29J	2	84.3	100	75.0	50.0

Conclusion: I report compliance

Action Steps to Improve Graduation Rates:

1. Provide clarity with stakeholders around the target population of students for 27J secondary schools. This work began with a full day retreat of school and community stakeholders. The goal of the day was to define the best learning situations for students and provide clarity around 27J educational options for high school students.
2. Continue to explore online and blended learning to support 27J students in having additional choices to match their needs. This year BOLT opened and provided 27J’s first online and blended experience. This spring, coordination meetings are being held with the goal is to expand online and blended opportunities for students at the high school level.
3. Expand the thoughtful use of credit recovery options through computer-based curricular programs. While A+ is currently is used for high school students, additional options to support additional students will be explored.
4. Continue to support the behavior side of the 27J Instructional Model to increase proactive measures to improve student behaviors. Examples include: Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), expansion of evidence-based attendance and behavior intervention strategies, and additional attendance liaison position. Last year a Director of Intervention Services was hired to lead and facilitate this work. Success indicators at the time of this report include:

- a. Restructuring the department to align with services needed.
 - b. Development of FLEX, a program within Brighton Heritage Academy to support students who have been expelled or who are otherwise in need of transitional services
 - c. Establishing alternative to expulsion opportunities.
 - d. Facilitating the partnership with Colorado Youth for Change to provide an Interventionist at both comprehensive high schools, providing additional academic and personal skill support for students at risk of failure. Currently those positions are intended to continue in next year's budget.
5. Continue the work outlined by the 27J District Unified Improvement Plan.
- a. The Thinking Classroom
 - b. Implementation of the 27J Evaluation System
 - c. Focusing on refining and improving the Problem Solving Team process in all schools