

School District 27J Board Goal 1.1

To: Board of Education, School District 27J

From: Superintendent of Schools

Re: Goal – 1.1 Graduation Rate

Date: February 23, 2017

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

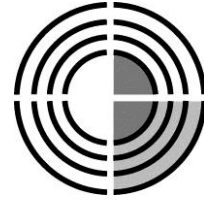
Signed:



Dr. Chris Fiedler, Superintendent



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



Board Goal: Academic 1.1

Date Adopted/Last Revised: October 1, 2015

- 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	2014	2015	2016
Colorado Graduation Rate %	82.5	80.1	74.1	75.0	73.9	74.6	72.4	73.9	75.4	76.9	77.3	77.3	78.9
Total 27J Graduation Rate %	84.5	80.6	66.6	71.5	66.6	71.7	72.9	72.9	71.5	79.2	79.8	76.7	77.5
Bolt %											40.0	56.3	56.3
Brighton Heritage Academy %	60.0	25.0	11.7	17.2	9.8	13.6	8.1	7.4	9.7	14.0	29.1	17.0	19.8
Brighton High School %	87.0	88.0	84.8	88.6	85.2	84.4	87.5	80.6	73.8	81.7	82.4	77.5	78.7
Eagle Ridge Academy %								86.7	77.8	92.7	88.0	89.0	90.3
Prairie View High School %						88.8	80.8	78.9	79.6	82.9	83.5	80.9	86.1

* Calculation of graduation rate was different in these years as described on page 3

As seen from the table above, the graduation rate for 2016 for 27J saw a slight increase from the 2015 graduation rate. Increases occurred at Brighton Heritage Academy, Brighton High School, Eagle Ridge Academy and Prairie View High School. The increase of .8 to the district overall does not meet the goal of the 2% increase required by the 27J Board of Education Goals. This 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 enrollment large enough make the data statistically significant.

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 Bennett 29J. In most instances, we compare ourselves to the Adams County school districts in the metropolitan area.

Table 2: Graduation Rate Percentage of Adams County Districts

	2016 Grad Base numbers	2016 Grad Rate (%)	2015 Grad Rate (%)	2014 Grad Rate (%)	2013 Grad Rate (%)	2012 Grad Rate (%)
Colorado	63,166	78.9	77.3	77.3	73.9	75.4
Adams 12 Five Star	2,626	80.6	77.7	73.9	73.7	69.9
School District 27J	1,092	77.5	76.7	79.8	79.2	71.5
Adams 50 Westminster	704	56.3	59.4	57.1	64.0	60.5
Adams 1 Mapleton	639	64.6	57.1	52.5	47.8	42.5
Adams 14 Commerce City	544	65.8	64.2	65.9	59.4	63.4

Strasburg	89	83.1	87.0	85.0	81.5	84.4
Bennett 29J	70	77.1	77.3	84.4	84.3	91.2

Adams Twelve Five Star Schools leads the large metro area school districts in Adams County in graduation rate. The smaller rural districts of Bennett and Strasburg do have high graduation rates but both of these smaller districts have small numbers of students in the cohort group.

Table 3: 27J Graduation Rate by Gender and Ethnicity by Percentage

	2004*	2005*	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
All Students	84.5	80.6	66.6	71.5	66.6	71.7	72.9	72.9	71.5	79.2	79.8	76.7	77.5
All White Students	89.2	87.0	73.4	78.4	69.7	80.2	79.5	78.4	80.5	83.9	84.2	81.2	82.9
White Female	94.1	84.2	76.9	85.5	75.6	80.9	84.3	85.3	82.7	90.4	91.2	85.9	89.4
White Male	84.3	90.0	69.9	72.1	63.6	79.4	74.6	72.6	78.5	77.6	77.4	76.2	77.0
All Hispanic Students	75.2	72.2	55.0	60.4	60.0	66.7	65.3	67.2	62.6	72.8	74.7	71.2	70.9
Hispanic Female	83.0	82.7	67.0	66.1	64.1	66.7	70.7	79.3	72.1	79.4	78.0	78.7	76.7
Hispanic Male	69.4	61.5	45.2	54.8	55.9	53.7	60.4	54.4	54.3	66.5	71.1	64.3	64.9

*Calculation of graduation rate was different in these years

The graduation rate of our Hispanic students continues to trail behind the graduation rate for White students, with a difference of 12.0 percentage points. This gap continues to be around 10 percentage points in recent years: 11.1 percentage points in 2013 and 9.5 percentage points in 2014 and 10 percentage points in 2015.

The lowest graduation rate by gender and ethnicity is that of Hispanic males, at 64.9 percent. The table below presents the graduation rate for all Adams County school districts' Hispanic males. 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 in 27J compared to other Adams County School Districts.

Table 4: Adams County Hispanic Male Graduation Rate

	2016 Hispanic Male Base Numbers	2016 Hispanic Male Grad (%)	2015 Hispanic Male Grad (%)	2014 Hispanic Male Grad (%)	2013 Hispanic Male Grad (%)	2012 Hispanic Male Grad (%)	2011 Hispanic Male Grad (%)
Colorado	10,003	65.0	62.7	62.1	60.9	57.1	55.6
Adams 12 Five Star	518	70.3	68.3	62.0	67.5	62.1	52.2
Westminster	265	49.4	49.6	46.1	53.7	51.7	53.3

School District 27J	239	64.9	64.3	71.1	66.5	54.3	54.4
Adams 14	234	59.4	54.8	62.6	57.1	51.4	58.4
Adams 1 Mapleton	150	60.0	53.5	43.7	34.0	32.8	37.4
Strasburg	4	75.0	57.1	88.9	100	40.0	80.0
Bennett 29J	6	83.3	50.0	50.0	100	75.0	50.0

The Student Achievement Division is aware of other student groups that had concerning graduation rates. However the data for demographic groups with fewer than 20 students is not shared in this report in order to protect student identities.

Table 5: Adams County Completer Rates

	2016 Completer Rate %	2015 Completer Rate %	2014 Completer Rate %	2013 Completer Rate %	2012 Completer Rate %	2011 Completer Rate %
Colorado	80.3	78.8	79.5	79.6	78.2	76.8
Adams 12 Five Star	81.6	78.6	75.5	76.2	73.2	69.1
School District 27J	79.3	79.5	81.6	81.8	75.1	75.8
Adams 50 Westminster	57.1	60.7	59.2	65.3	61.9	65.9
Adams 1 Mapleton	68.7	60.3	57.6	50.4	46.9	45.9
Adams 14 Commerce City	67.3	65.0	67.9	60.9	65.1	63.8
Strasburg	83.1	87.0	87.5	83.1	84.4	90.0
Bennett 29J	78.6	78.8	85.9	84.3	91.2	87.2

Table 5 illustrates the completer rate for Adams County School Districts. School District 27J is close to the state completer rate. The table illustrates only the 5 year completer rate, rates for additional years is available on the CDE website listed earlier. This table does demonstrate the efforts 27J staff demonstrates to have students complete high school.

Conclusion: I report Non-compliance

Action Steps to Improve Graduation Rates:

The Student Achievement Division will continue to follow the Managed Autonomy Framework that was shared with the 27J Board of Education in January.