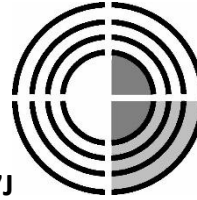




COLORADO SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J



**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.

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.”

Colorado defines “on-time” graduation as students who graduate from high school four years after entering ninth grade. In addition to this 4-year rate, the state calculates 5-,6-, and 7- year graduation rates. The state also calculates corresponding completion rates, which include graduates along with students who are determined to have completed high school upon receipt of a GED or some other form of certification.

For the purposes of this report, we have included multiple years of graduation data, also with completion 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> and on the CDE District Dashboard <http://www2.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/dish/dashboard.asp>

Graduation

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Colorado Graduation Rate %	76.9	77.3	77.3	78.9	79	80.7
27J Schools Graduation Rate %	79.2	79.8	76.7	77.5	77.4	81.5
Bolt %		40.0	56.3	56.2	75	86.4
Brighton Heritage Academy %	14.0	29.1	17.0	19.8	14.4	30
Brighton High School %	81.7	82.4	77.5	78.7	81	83.1
Eagle Ridge Academy %	92.7	88.0	89.0	90.3	98	98.2
Prairie View High School %	82.9	83.5	80.9	86.1	84.3	88.3

All 27J Schools experienced an increase in graduation rates in 2018. Each high school achieved their highest graduation rate in 6 years, with the district achieving a graduation rate above 80%.

Table 2: Graduation Rate Percentage of Adams County Districts

	2013 Rate (%)	2014 Rate (%)	2015 Rate (%)	2016 Rate (%)	2017 Rate (%)	2018 Rate (%)
Bennett 29J	84.3	84.4	77.3	77.1	88.6	87.2
Strasburg	81.5	85.0	87.0	83.1	85.6	86.2
Adams 12 Five Star	73.7	73.9	77.7	80.6	83.6	84.3
27J Schools	79.2	79.8	76.7	77.5	77.4	81.5
Colorado	73.9	77.3	77.3	78.9	79	80.7
Westminster Public Sc.	64.0	57.1	59.4	56.3	57.8	67.9
Adams 14 Commerce City	59.4	65.9	64.2	65.8	65.6	64.3
Mapleton 1	47.8	52.5	57.1	64.6	59	60.4

Table 2 shows 27J Schools graduation rates in comparison to the state and other Adams County school districts. Adams 12 Five Star Schools is the largest comparative school district, and Bennett 27J represents the smallest cohort of students.

27J Schools ranked 4th in Adams County but compared favorably to the surrounding school districts and to the Colorado State average. Smaller school districts such as Bennett 29J and Strasburg continue to outscore the larger school districts such as Adams 12 Five Star, 27J Schools and Westminster Public Schools. Westminster Public Schools narrowed the gap between themselves and 27J Schools. Last year 27J Schools outscored Westminster Public Schools by more than 25% this year the gap narrowed to 13.6%.

27J Schools has outpaced the state of Colorado for the first time in 3 years by .8%. 27J Schools increased graduation rates by 4% from 2017 while Adams 12 Five Star increased by 1.3% leaving a 2.8% gap between the graduation rates of the two school districts.

Table 3: 27J 4 Year Graduation Rate by Gender and Ethnicity by Percentage

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All Students	79.2	79.8	76.7	77.5	77.4	81.5
All White Students	83.9	84.2	81.2	82.9	81	84.2
White Female	90.4	91.2	85.9	89.4	87	89.2
White Male	77.6	77.4	76.2	77	76	78.7
All Hispanic Students	72.8	74.7	71.2	70.9	73	78.7
Hispanic Female	79.4	78.0	78.7	76.7	78	83.5
Hispanic Male	66.5	71.1	64.3	64.9	70	74.4

Table 3 presents additional details of graduation rates of our diverse student population. Hispanic students make up our largest minority student population. All Hispanic students increased 5.7% since 2017 and since 2016 Hispanic student on-time graduation has grown 8.5%. Hispanic Female graduation rates continue to leap forward closing the gap jumping more than 5.5% since 2017 and surpassing their 6 year high. Hispanic Males also are showing progress with a 4.4% increase, exceeding their highest graduation rate in the past 5 years by 3.3%.

Completion Rate

Beginning with the 2010 graduating class, Colorado began calculating a four-year, five-year, six-year and a seven-year graduation rate, along with a 5-, 6- and 7-year completer rate. The completion rate includes all students who graduate with a regular diploma plus students who complete 4-years with a high school equivalent or non-diploma certificate. It is important to note that graduates are included in the completer count and rate, therefore the completion counts and rates for any school or district will be greater than or equal to the graduation rate.

Table 4: Seven Year Completion Rate District Comparison.

	2016 Completer Rate %	2017 Completer Rate %	2018 Completer Rate %
Strasburg	95.2	96.2	95.6
Colorado	87.8	88.3	88.4
Adams 12 Five Star	84.4	84.7	87.6
27J Schools	89.4	89.5	87.4
Bennett 29J	91.3	90.5	81.5
Adams 1 Mapleton	67.4	76.0	80.8
Adams 14 Commerce City	75.8	77.7	76.6
Westminster	82.2	76.3	72.2

In Table 4 there is a comparison of Adams county school districts using the 7-year completer rate. 27J Schools 7-year completion rate fell by 2.1% in 2018. This decline in the rate matches the lower graduation rate from 2015. 27J Schools ranked 3rd compared to districts throughout the county.

Table 5: Seven Year Completion Rate by High School

	2016 7 Year Completion	2017 7 Year Completion	2018 7 Year Completion
Colorado 7 Year Completion Rate	87.8	85.3	88.4
Total 27J 7 Completion Rate	89.4	89.5	87.4
Bolt	No report	100	85.7
Brighton Heritage Academy	40.8	61.3	48.8
Brighton High School	89.2	90.5	89.1
Eagle Ridge Academy	98.1	88	98.9
Prairie View High School	94.6	92.7	91.6

Table 5 shows how each of the 27J high schools compared. All 27J comprehensive high schools exceeded the Colorado 7-year completion rate and for the second year in a row Prairie View High School's completion rate exceeded 90%.

Table 6: 27J 7 Year Completion Rate by Gender and Ethnicity by Percentage

	2016 7-Year Completion Rate	2017 7-Year Completion Rate	2018 7-Year Completion Rate
All Students	79.2	86.9	87.4
All White Students	83.9	93	92
White Female	90.4	98	93.4
White Males	68.4	89	90.5
Hispanic Female	79.4	88	89.1
Hispanic Male	66.5	81	75.9

Table 6 shows 7-year completion rate by gender and ethnicity. The data reveals continued gaps between White and Hispanic students. There is consistent progress over a 3-year trend line for White males and Hispanic females, while White female and Hispanic male data took a dip in 2018.

Conclusion: I report compliance

Action Steps to Improve Graduation Rates:

The Thinking Classroom

Since 2012 27J schools have pursued the Thinking Classroom as a conceptual framework for an ideal classroom. This concept was expanded to include GEL (Goal, Evidence and Learning activities) and, as a coordinated effort, align with our teacher evaluation system and school improvement plans. The result has yielded consistent graduation results that are comparable to the state average for the past 5 years along with consistent 7 year completer results which show encouraging statistics.

At the same time that teachers, through our system, were setting instructional and professional goals and looking at data for improvements through GEL. Elementary schools began a process of establishing and then using curriculum frames and common assessments which clearly articulate grade level expectations and provided data for classroom instruction. Our goal is to see grade level expectations established K-12 to insure we have a system which does not “short change” students by perpetuating low expectations.

Improving Academic Frames and Common Assessments

In the past year the curriculum framework teams have aligned the 27J school classroom expectations with high school standards and the SAT. School year 2017-2018 marked the first year, that in addition to The Thinking Classroom and GEL, that high school teachers have used curriculum frames and common assessments aligned to grade level expectations to inform their instruction. High School teachers began realignment of their curriculum around new grade level curriculum frames to insure that students who pass their coursework also meet high academic expectation. In 2018 we will continue to see more teachers re-evaluating their teaching and planning not only with grade level expectations, but also with new graduation requirements. The frames will provide more data to inform instruction through common assessments. The goal of the Thinking Classroom moving beyond graduation and to inform learners who are prepared for our communities in the year 2038, is now becoming a reality.

Academic Planner

Through evaluation of our Academic Planner we discovered that some of our students were on a pathway to successful course completion, but not skills development. Students did not share in GEL. A significant change in scheduling to insure that every student is enrolled in grade level courses and that successful completion of those courses results in a successful demonstration of academic standards. This along with a technology change beginning in 2018, now places academic planning into the hands of our counselors, parents, teachers, administrators and students to continue the academic planning process. Further refinement of the system in 2018 will clarify goal setting, evidence of success and provide clarity on learning opportunities for students through the academic planning process. Through better planning and coordination, we will move successful completion of high school from a 5, 6 or 7-year plan to a 4 year on time graduation for every student.

Investment in Tools, Talent, and Time

For the 2nd consecutive year, 27J has investment in Tools, Talent, and Time. One year ago, all secondary schools received updated resources to support student learning. That same year, all secondary students received Chromebooks. 27J further adopted a 4-day calendar aimed at teacher recruitment, coupled with time for educator development and preparation. In the fall of 2019, High School will receive an increase in staff with direct aim at:

- Eliminating off periods for freshman and sophomores
- Increasing student access to teacher support
- Increasing teacher relationships with students and their families
- Increased attention to student academic and social emotional behaviors, and supporting these behaviors

All with the expectation of ensuring graduation for every 27J student.

Investing in Teacher Development throughout 27J

We know that changing course requirements and clarifying standards in our curriculum is not enough. We must hire, retain and train our teachers to be the best teachers they can be. To complete this process, we continue to develop the implementation plan for The Thinking Classroom and have rearranged time and professional development to place more resources in the hands of our teachers.

While this global end goal is focused on the improvement of 4-year graduation rates, we know that without improving the entire K-12 learning system, those graduation rates would be short lived. We expect to see incremental gains over the next 3 years in graduation rates and student learning results.