



# A Long Road to a Longitudinal Data System

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Secondary Education

October 24, 2008

# Agenda

- History of MA data collection
- Cohort Dropout and Graduation Rates
- How can we get better?
- Lessons Learned
- Questions

# History of SIMS

- Began assigning unique student identifiers in 2000 and had the first statewide collection in October 2001 (SIMS 1.0)
  - 35 elements mostly focused on demographic information and required reporting to the USED.
  - Collected three times a year (October 1, December 1, and the end of year)
  - Not used for assessment, funding, or accountability purposes

## History of SIMS (2)

- SIMS 2.0 launched on October 1, 2003
  - Expanded to four times a year (October, December, March and the end of year)
  - Data used for budget and assessment purposes
  - As quality increases so does the usage
  - Began to collect more detailed programmatic data
    - AP courses
    - Title I Participation
    - LEP program participation
    - CVTE participation

## History of SIMS (3)

- Minor changes since the 03-04 school year
- Developed centralized policy for changing SIMS
- Additional elements within the same structure and eliminated the December 1<sup>st</sup> collection in October 2006
- Collecting more programmatic data
  - Alternative education programs
  - MA Core Curriculum for graduation
  - Special education evaluation data

# Current State of the System

- Highest quality of data since the development of the system
  - Publish the data
  - Attach money
- Education Personnel Information Management System (EPIMS) launched in 2007-08
- Missing: Student course enrollment!
- Continue to shorten collection windows to meet demands for the data
  - Amazing correlation between the deadline and the submission dates!

# SIMS Enrollment Status Codes

<b>01</b>	Enrolled	<b>24</b>	Transferred — Adult diploma program, leading to MA diploma
<b>04</b>	Graduate with a Competency Determination	<b>30</b>	Dropout — Enrolled in a non-diploma granting adult education program
<b>05</b>	Permanent Exclusion (Expulsion)	<b>31</b>	Dropout — Entered Job Corps
<b>06</b>	Deceased	<b>32</b>	Dropout — Entered the military
<b>09</b>	Reached maximum age, did not graduate or receive a Certificate of Attainment	<b>33</b>	Dropout — Incarcerated, district no longer providing educational services
<b>10</b>	Certificate of Attainment	<b>34</b>	Dropout — Left due to employment
<b>11</b>	Completed grade 12 and district-approved program. (District does not offer a Certificate of Attainment)	<b>35</b>	Dropout — Confirmed Dropout, plans unknown
<b>20</b>	Transferred — In state public	<b>36</b>	Dropout — Student status/location unknown
<b>21</b>	Transferred — In state private	<b>40</b>	Not enrolled but receiving special education services only.
<b>22</b>	Transferred — Out-of-State (public or private)	<b>41</b>	Transferred — no longer receiving special education services only.
<b>23</b>	Transferred — Home-school		

# Other Indicators in SIMS

- Race
- LEP
- SPED
- Low-income
- Years in U.S. Schools
- Attendance
- AP courses
- Mobility
- First Language
- Homeless status

# Data Warehouse

- Purchased a data warehouse and reporting tool from Cognos in 2006
- Have loaded 7 years of SIMS and assessment data and one year of EPIMS data. Currently have just over 25% of the districts integrated
- All assessment data will be provided to districts through the warehouse starting in 2010
- Ability to load formative assessment data



# Cohort Dropout and Graduation Rates

# Calculating a Cohort Graduation Rate

- Massachusetts had been using the Competency Determination (CD) rate prior to 2006 because the Department did not have enough data – THIS IS NOT A GRADUATION RATE
- CD rate measured the percentage of enrolled 12<sup>th</sup> graders that had passed the MCAS
- The Department did not think that the aggregate options were a better than option than waiting. Others have shown the problems and we agreed!

# Why Did We Have to Wait?

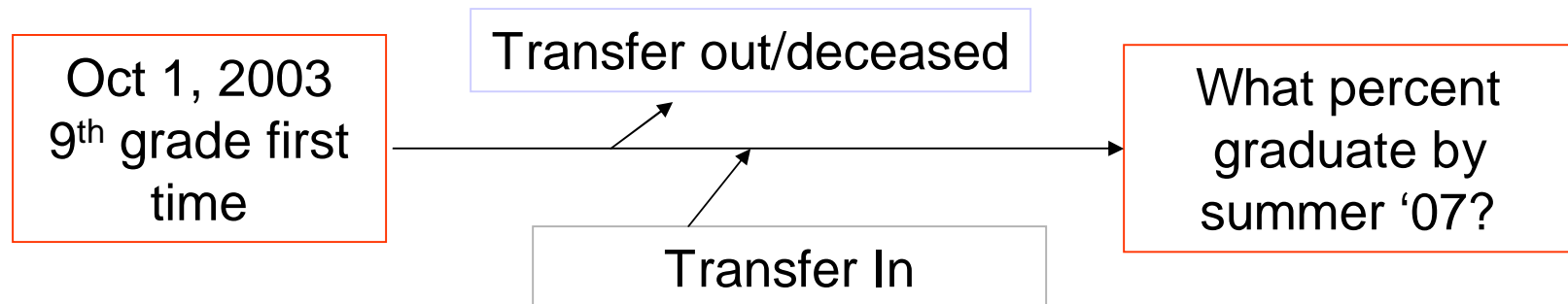
	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
2001-02	X				
2002-03		X			
2003-04			X		
2004-05				X	
2005-06					X

# Calculation Method

## 4 Year Rate – 2007 Cohort

# of students in cohort who graduate within 4 years

[# of 1<sup>st</sup> time 9<sup>th</sup> graders 4 yrs earlier] – transfers out +  
transfers in

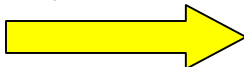


# Cohort vs. Class

- Important distinction between two different groups of students
- Class – Group of students that graduate at a certain time (outgoing determination)
- Cohort – Group of students expected to graduate in a year (incoming determination)
- Many students in the 2006 cohort graduated with the class of 2007

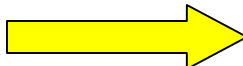
# Calculation Notes - Subgroups

Limited English Proficiency  
Low-Income  
Special Education



Reported in at least once in HS

Race/Ethnicity  
Gender



Last reported category

Students may be in more than one subgroup.

# Cohort vs. Class

Cohort - year/grade of 1st appearance in MA public district.

	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
2002-03	2006			
2003-04	2007	2006		
2004-05	2008	2007	2006	
2005-06	2009	2008	2007	2006
2006-07	2010	2009	2008	2007
2007-08	2011	2010	2009	2008



# How Can We Get Better?

# Don't Stop There!

- “The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none” – Thomas Carlyle
- Needed to move away from a collection and reporting system and make the system about the users in addition to publishing rates
- Dropout/Graduation Rate Applications and the Early Indicator Index

# Dropout Application

Dropout Data Summary Report - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

https://www5.doemass.org/dropout/report.asp

The Department will use the dropout data in the public 2007-08 dropout report, scheduled to be released in spring 2009. If you have questions about your dropout data please contact Cheryl Loiselle at (781) 338-3584 or through email at [cloiselle@doe.mass.edu](mailto:cloiselle@doe.mass.edu).

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District: 0001 Abington  
School: 00010000 District Results

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	2007-08
<b>High School Enrollment</b> <i>Total enrollment of students in grades 9 through 12 - based on October 2007 SIMS</i>	589
<b>Summer Dropouts</b> <i>Students determined to have dropped out of school over the summer before the start of the 2007-08 school year.</i>	3
<b>School Year Dropouts</b> <i>Students determined to have dropped out of school in any reporting period during the 2007-08 school year minus those found in other districts.</i>	14
<b>Returned Dropouts</b> <i>Students who were reported as returned to school, graduated, or earned a GED before October 1, 2008.</i>	N/A
<b>Final Dropout Count (Adjusted Dropouts)</b> <i>Summer Dropouts and School Year Dropouts minus Returned Dropouts</i>	N/A
<b>Final Dropout Rate (Adjusted Dropout Rate)</b> <i>Total adjusted dropouts divided by the total enrollment multiplied by 100</i>	N/A

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# Graduation Rate Application

Graduation Rate Reports Page - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

https://www5.doemass.org/GradRates/GRReportsRO.aspx

The deadline for submitting data correction requests passed in winter 2008. The Department will not accept any further changes to the data. The data in this application are for informational and planning purposes only.

District: **00010000**  
School: **00010505**

**A . Grade 9 Original Cohort**  
This is the list of students who were enrolled in your school/district on Oct. 1, 2003 in 9th grade and were not in 9th grade the prior year.

**B . Students Entering Cohort**  
This is the list of students who transferred into the cohort after Oct. 1, 2003 and remained in the cohort.

**C . Students Exiting Cohort**  
This is the list of students who were in the original cohort but exited after Oct. 1, 2003.

**D . Final Cohort**  
This is the list of students who were in the cohort as of end-of-year 2007 and are included in the graduation rate calculation.

**E . Final Adjusted Cohort**  
This is the list of students who were in the original cohort and never left the cohort. These students are included in the adjusted graduation rate.

**F . Graduates**  
This is the list of students who are included as graduates in the graduation rate.

**G . Cohort Non-Grads**  
This is the list of students who are still in the cohort but have not graduated as of October 1, 2007.

**H . All Students**  
This is the list of all of the students who were ever included in the cohort regardless of their final status in the cohort.

Done www5.doemass.org

Student-  
Level  
Reports

# Early Indicator Index

## Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

### Early Indicator Index (Points and Risk Levels)

Use Autofilter arrows to find and work with a subset of data in a range. A filtered range displays only the rows that meet the criteria you speci

#### Early Indicator Index (EII) Data

Grade 8 MCAS Math		Grade 8 MCAS ELA		Grade 8 Attendance		Grades 7 & 8 Mobility		Risk Level	
<u>Scaled Score</u>	<u>Points</u> (see data dictionary)	<u>Scaled Score</u>	<u>Points</u> (see data dictionary)	<u>Attendance Rate</u>	<u>Points</u> (see data dictionary)	<u>Incidence of Changing Schools</u>	<u>Points</u> (see data dictionary)	<u>EII Points</u>	<u>Risk Level</u>
212	19	208	20	90	17	2	20.0	76.0	Very High Risk
216	16	214	20	91	16	0	6.7	58.7	High Risk
216	16	224	17	95	12	0	6.7	51.7	At Risk
218	14	250	5	98	6	1	13.4	38.4	Borderline
226	10	252	4	97	8	0	6.7	28.7	Low Risk

# Early Indicator Index

Grade 8  
Mathematics

<b>Grade 8 Math Scaled Score</b>	<b>Assigned Points</b>
204-208	20
210-212	19
214	18
--	17
216	16
--	15
218	14
--	13
220	12
222	11
224-226	10
228-230	9
232-234	8
236-238	7
240-242	6
244-246	5
248-250	4
252-254	3
258-262	2
264-280	1

## Lessons Learned

- We are not there yet
- Data systems should not be built just to meet reporting requirements
- Calculate a rate when the quality is there
- Just because they gave it to you doesn't mean they are using it.
- Challenge your state to keep moving forward, it's very easy to stop to take a breath!

Questions???

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