This multi-part series published in Dr. McCormick's Weekly Update, and in the Accountability Moodle Community, provides information to educate schools about managing their graduation cohorts and the calculation of graduation rates. Please forward any questions to schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov.

Installment #9: Homeschooling and the Graduation Rate

Occasionally a student and their parents will decide that a homeschool setting will better meet their educational needs than a traditional school setting. When this occurs, the school should ensure the following:

- The exit to homeschool instruction is initiated by the parent or guardian of the student and not the school. Pursuant to IC 20-26-13-11.3(a) the school should have substantial evidence that the parent or guardian of the student initiated the student's exit to homeschool instruction.
- The parent or legal guardian reads, understands, and signs the *Withdraw to Non-accredited Non-public School* form. Keeping in mind that for all exits after July 1, 2018, IDOE expects schools to utilize the unaltered version of the form, approved by the State Board of Education in May 2018. The form is also available in our Moodle community, School Accountability & Accreditation (enrollment key: AccountabilityCommunity) under Graduation Rate.

In general, exiting to homeschool will exit a student from the cohort. However, there are two scenarios whereby a student with an exit code 20 (Removed by Parents to Homeschool) will be returned to the cohort as a dropout.

- When insufficient documentation is submitted for a mandatory audit, the student is returned to the cohort as a dropout (e.g., incorrect form, unsigned form, undated form, etc.). Schools should review the audit resources available in the School Accountability & Accreditation Community in Moodle. **Note:** *More than half of the students returned to the 2018 cohort as a result of the mandatory audit were a result of insufficient documentation for exit code 20.*
- If a school has a large number of students who are credit deficient exit to homeschool and the school fails to demonstrate good cause for these exits, the students will be returned to the cohort as dropouts. Pursuant to IC 20-26-13-10(b), schools with a significant number of students exiting to homeschool and are credit deficient must petition the State Board of Education to support these exits from the cohort. The threshold for "***significant"*** varies depending on the number of students in the cohort, for those cohorts larger than 100 students, the threshold is five percent, for all others it is 10 percent.

Keep in mind that dual enrolled students who are primarily homeschooled and only taking a course or two at the public school should not be reported on Realtime/Enrollment Mobility thus the student will not be included in the cohort.

Next Installment

Next week's installment will discuss the Five Year Graduation Rate and corresponding audit.