

# NYC DOE Discharge Reporting – 2020-21 School Year

## Background

Local Law 42, enacted in 2011, requires the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to report to the New York City Council by June 30, 2022 the number of students in grades 6 through 12 who were discharged, transferred, or graduated during the 2020-21 school year. This document summarizes and explains the reported data.

This law requires the reporting of discharges and graduations that occur during one school year. The DOE ordinarily presents both types of events in the context of a high school graduation cohort – the group of students who entered 9th grade in the same year. Such cohort reporting reflects discharges that occurred at any time during the cohort’s four years of high school. Graduations and discharges are ordinarily reported by cohort because it allows the DOE and the public to measure how well schools are educating all students who enter their school and preparing them to earn a high school diploma.

The data required by Local Law 42 reflects a snapshot of all students enrolled in a particular school year, regardless of their cohort (year they entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade). The data included in this reporting therefore differs significantly from other graduation and discharge results reported by the DOE. As a snapshot of students at different stages of their educational careers, data reported by school year is less meaningful than cohort reporting as a measure of New York City schools’ success in keeping students engaged and moving them to graduation.

## Official, Publically Reported Graduation and Dropout Rates (for context & not included in this report)

Graduation, Dropout Rates and Discharges Outside of NYC: The New York State Education Department and the DOE reported outcomes for the cohort of students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2017 and completed their fourth year of high school in 2021.<sup>1</sup> According to these data:

- 81.2% of the class of 2021 graduated within four years by August, as compared to 78.8% in 2020.
- 4.8% of the class of 2021 dropped out, compared to 5.8% in 2020.
- A high school student with a confirmed discharge to a public or private school outside of the New York City school district is removed from a school’s graduation cohort. According to these data, the number of students discharged outside of New York City was 8,412 for the class of 2021 compared to 8,804 students the prior year.

## Discharge Reporting Results for the 2020-21 School Year

In contrast to the cohort reporting described above, the data required by Local Law 42 includes all students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 during the 2020-21 school year, and only includes discharge and transfer events that occurred during that school year. *Note that the 2020-21 school year – including transfers and discharges – was significantly impacted by COVID-19 and the move to remote and blended instruction.* According to these data, during the 2020-21 school year:

- 6,935 students (1.4% of the 501,980 students enrolled in district schools) transferred between New York City public schools, including charter schools. It was 3.5% in 2019-20.
- 7,614 students (1.5%) were discharged outside of New York City public schools. It was 2.3% in 2019-20.
- 2,739 students (0.5%) dropped out or were discharged under other codes. It was 0.8% in 2019-20.

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<sup>1</sup> Graduation reports are available at <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports-and-policies/citywide-information-and-data/graduation-results>.

## Methodology

At the citywide, borough and district levels, the DOE is required to report discharge, transfer and graduation counts by grade level (middle school only), cohort (high school only) and disability status. At the school level, the DOE is required to report discharge and transfer counts by grade level (middle school only), cohort (high school only), disability status broken down by, age as of 12/31 of the previous calendar year age, race/ethnicity, and gender.

The report contains data for districts 1-32, 75 and 79. For the purpose of the report, the analysis includes the last transaction for each student from the audited register date when official enrollment is established (11/13/20) to the end of the school year. Annual matriculation discharges, i.e. the ones when students are moving from Grade 8 to high school, are not included in the report.

Each discharge code is described below. More information on discharge codes can be found here: <https://infohub.nyced.org/nyc-doe-topics/Policies/discharges>.

Discharge Category	Discharge Code	Discharge Description
Discharge out of NYC School	10	Discharge based on an agency directive
Discharge out of NYC School	11	Discharge to a public or non-public school out of NYC
Discharge out of NYC School	15	Deceased student
Discharge out of NYC School	25	Student already received high school diploma
Discharge out of NYC School	08	Discharge to a non-public school in NYC
Drop Out	12	Student address unknown
Drop Out	21	Student is over 21 years of age.
Drop Out	39	Voluntary withdrawal or discharge after 20 consecutive days of non-attendance
Drop Out	02	Job Corps program or full-time employment
Drop Out	08X	Discharge to a non-public school in NYC - missing documentation
Drop Out	11X	Discharge to a public or non-public school out of NYC - missing documentation
Graduation or Credential	26	Local Diploma
Graduation or Credential	27	High School Regents Diploma
Graduation or Credential	28	High School Regents Diploma with Honors
Graduation or Credential	30	TASC Test Assessing Secondary Completion
Graduation or Credential	47	High School Advanced Regents Diploma
Graduation or Credential	62	High School Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors
Graduation or Credential	64	Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential
Graduation or Credential	65	Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential
Transfer	38	Transfers into Part-Time D79 DOE High School Equivalency program
Transfer	43	Transfers into Full-Time D79 DOE High School Equivalency program
Transfer	51	Home School Return transfers to D79 or D75 programs
Transfer	00	Transfer to another DOE school or program