

calculating high school graduation rates and informs the public of progress toward the goal of universal high school graduation; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

7-203.2.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) "FOUR-YEAR COHORT" MEANS A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO ENTER NINTH GRADE TOGETHER.

(II) "FOUR-YEAR COHORT" ALSO INCLUDES A STUDENT WHO:

1. TRANSFERS INTO THE GROUP:
 - A. DURING THE NINTH GRADE OF THE GROUP'S FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL;
 - B. DURING THE TENTH GRADE OF THE GROUP'S SECOND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL;
 - C. DURING THE ELEVENTH GRADE OF THE GROUP'S THIRD YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL; OR
 - D. DURING THE TWELFTH GRADE OF THE GROUP'S FOURTH YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL;
2. IS RETAINED IN GRADE; OR
3. IS ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM.

(III) "FOUR-YEAR COHORT" DOES NOT INCLUDE A STUDENT WHO:

1. DIES BEFORE GRADUATION;
2. TRANSFERS OUT OF THE GROUP; OR
3. THE COUNTY BOARD CONFIRMS HAS PERMANENTLY LEFT THE UNITED STATES.

(IV) STUDENTS RETAINED IN GRADE ARE ONLY COUNTED ONCE AS MEMBERS OF THEIR ORIGINAL COHORT.

(3) "GRADUATION RATE" MEANS THE PERCENTAGE OBTAINED FROM APPLYING THE GRADUATION RATE FORMULA.

(4) (I) "GRADUATION RATE FORMULA" MEANS THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE ON TIME WITH A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE FOUR-YEAR COHORT.