



Grade 9 Cohort Graduation Rate, 2012-2017

What is the Grade 9 Cohort?

This is the 13th successive Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Grade 9 cohort study. A cohort study follows a group of students (Grade 9 students) over a period of time (five years) that it takes most Ontario students to complete secondary school.

There were 16,939 students in the TDSB on October 31, 2012, who were between 13 and 15 years of age and who were new to secondary school. We looked at how those students were doing exactly five years after they started, that is, as of October 31, 2017. By this time, 1,736 students had exited the TDSB. Reasons for 'exit' include other boards, provinces, countries, education institutions, deceased, and private schools (according to exit codes).

This left a total of 15,203 students in the study. As of October 31, 2017:

- 13,022 (86%) students had graduated;
- 668 (4%) were still enrolled in the TDSB (as of October 31, 2017);
- 1,513 (10%) had dropped out (according to our records they had not graduated, were no longer in the TDSB, and had not transferred to another educational institution).

Fall 2000 to Fall 2012 Cohorts, Graduation Rate

There has been a steadily increasing cohort graduation rate over the past 12 cohort years. In the most recent cohort (Fall 2012-2017) there were 13,022 students (out of a total 15,203 students) that had a record of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or had completed 30+ credits; resulting in an 86% graduation rate. This was an increase of 0.3% from the previous Fall 2011-2016 cohort. However, due to rounding, the overall graduation rate moved up to 86%. It is also an increase of 17% since the baseline of the Fall 2000-2005 cohort (69% to 86%) (see Figure 1).

Graduation Rate – Comparison to the Ministry

The Ministry of Education publishes the graduation rates for Ontario school boards. The Ministry's calculation has resulted in a slightly lower graduation rate for the TDSB because the Ministry employs a different methodology in calculating school board graduation rates.

Figure 1: TDSB Five Year Graduation Rate, the 2000 through 2012 Cohorts

