



Grade 9 Cohort Graduation Rate, 2011-2016

What is the Grade 9 Cohort?

This is the 12th successive Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Grade 9 cohort study. A cohort study follows a group of students (students in Grade 9) over a period of time (five years) it takes most Ontario students to complete secondary school.

There were 17,304 students in the TDSB on October 31, 2011, 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, 2016. By this time, 1,800 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 15,504 students in the study. As of October 31, 2016:

- 13,242 (85%) students had graduated;
- 738 (5%) were still enrolled in the TDSB (as of October 31, 2016);
- 1,524 (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 2011 Cohorts, Graduation Rate

There has been a steadily increasing cohort graduation rate over the past 11 cohort years. In the most recent cohort (Fall 2011-2016) there were 13,242 students (out of a total 15,504 students) that had a record of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or had completed 30+ credits; resulting in an 85% graduation rate. This was an increase of 0.5% from the previous Fall 2010-2015 cohort. However, due to rounding, the overall graduation rate remains unchanged at 85%. It is also an increase of 16% since the baseline of the Fall 2000-2005 cohort (69% to 85%) (see Figure 1).

Graduation Rate – Comparison to the Ministry

The Ministry of Education has published 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 2011 Cohorts

