

What is cohort?

From the first day a student is enrolled in a Texas public high school, that student has entered a cohort monitored through PEIMS to determine the graduation rate for a campus. At the state level, a cohort is referred to by the beginning year. At the campus level, a class cohort is titled by its expected graduation year (i.e. class of 2015) within 4 years. It is important to note that a cohort year is established for a student from their starting day of enrollment in the school year, even if it is on a day during the year or the last day of the school year. If a student is new to the state of Texas, the grade level that is entered in PEIMS will place the student into a cohort year.

Cohort is not related to a student's age, total years in public schools or earned credits. It is exclusively associated with their years enrolled in high school.

How does it relate to diploma plans?

Cohort years relate to the diploma plan students are able to choose from as well as their testing program. You will need to determine when they began their high school career to know what diploma plan they can use. Students who are from the 2014 cohort and earlier would be under TAKS testing. Students who are expected to graduate in 2015 and beyond will be STAAR EOC testers.

How does it affect accountability?

According to the state, graduation rate is the rate at which students graduate within four years of enrollment. Graduation rate is calculated for traditional high schools via the cohort list in TEASE which is connected to PEIMS data submissions. A portion of index 4 of the Texas Accountability System rates traditional high schools using the percentage of graduates from the TEASE list, not counting students who withdraw for acceptable exclusions and the type of diploma they receive. They will look at the four year rate and the five year rate, using the better statistic. The cohort which is used is one year behind the current class. (Example: For accountability ratings in 2015, the class of 2014 will be used for four year and the class of 2013 will be used for five year.)

KEY QUESTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO ASK:

1. Are the students organized by cohort or grade level?
2. How are diploma plan accomplishments tracked over 4 years in your district?
3. What is the procedure for determining the cohort for registering transfer and entering high school students?
4. How are students who withdraw tracked and documented?