

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

February 9, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education  
From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Subject: Dropout Rates and Discontinued Enrollment (01-18-2022-03-H)

**Question H**

Mrs. Smondrowski requested an updated report on student dropout rates and discontinued enrollment, disaggregated by special groups as well as from which schools are they coming. What are we currently doing to correct this issue?

**Response:**

A student is not labeled as a dropout until the annual files are released by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as the dropout rate is reported with a student's graduation cohort. We are awaiting the Class of 2021 4-year cohort graduation and dropout rate data from MSDE. Following receipt and review of the data, it will be shared with the Board. When the information is shared, it will be disaggregated by racial/ethnic groups and student service groups.

For the Class of 2020, the four-year dropout rate for MCPS was 5.8 percent. The disaggregated information follows.

Table 1

Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rate Trends  
for District for Students in the Class of 2020

	Class of 2020	
	N	%
All Students	12646	↓ 5.8
Asian	1837	↑ 0.9
Black or African American	2632	↓ 3.1
Hispanic/Latino	4046	↓ 14.1
White	3604	↓ 1.3

	Class of 2020	
	N	%
Two or More Races	500	↓ 2.4
Special Education	1207	↓ 5.2
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	1663	↓ 29.1
FARMS	3414	↓ 5.5

*Note.* American Indian or Alaskan Native students and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included in the All Students group but not reported separately.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) implemented a new process known as “Graduation Validation” to support increasing graduation rates and decreasing dropouts beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. The central office graduation validation team meets with each high school team four times per year to monitor, through a comprehensive graduation database, the progress of potential graduates for the current year and undergraduates who have not been promoted with their graduation cohort, including those at risk of not graduating. Counselors and school team members develop support strategies for students, and the central team promotes effective practices enacted by schools with all. School teams develop an understanding of graduation rate cohorts by using their data to calculate and project graduation rates for various classes, and each school receives funding to provide graduation interventions. Staff in the Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement also reconnect with recent dropouts, provide counseling and advising, and encourage students to return to MCPS.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Kecia L. Addison, director of shared accountability, via email.

MBM:JND:KLA:vrn

Copy to:  
 Executive Staff  
 Dr. Addison  
 Ms. Webb