



South Carolina Public Charter School District 9GR & Graduation Rate Guide

August 2014

A student's "9GR" is the code which identifies the year a student FIRST entered the 9th grade.

To document the correct 9GR, a school must have evidence to show when the student was in:

- 8th grade (middle school report card, letter from MS principal, or SUNS history)
- AND**
- 9th grade (high school transcript or SUNS history)

A 9GR code should be left blank until a school has BOTH pieces of evidence listed above. If this evidence cannot be obtained, the 9GR must be estimated based on available information, including the student's birth date and enrollment records. Once entered, the 9GR should not be changed unless definitive information becomes available to indicate it is incorrect.

Last Year in MS (8 th Gr)	1 st Year in HS (9 th Gr)	2 nd Year in HS	3 rd Year in HS	4 th Year in HS	Expected Graduation	9GR Code
2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014	11
2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015	12
2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016	13
2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017	14
2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018	15
2014-15						Blank

Evidence must go back to 8TH grade
Never enter a 9GR code for a student in the 8th grade (or earlier)

PowerSchool

Start Page > Student Selection > South Carolina State Information > SC Student Supplemental

Student Supplemental Data Entry

Ninth Grade Code

Calculating Graduation Rate

Students are expected to earn a diploma four years after entering high school. The 9GR code is used to calculate a school's graduation rate. For example, in 2014, all students with 9GR=11 form the cohort of potential graduates.

$$\text{Graduation Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of graduates in the cohort (Group A)}}{\text{Total number of students in the cohort (Group A + Group B)}}$$

Group A: The following count FOR the graduation rate:

(Included in both numerator and denominator)

- Students who belong to the current cohort (9GR) AND have earned a high school diploma
- Students who belong to the current cohort and graduated in a prior year

Group B: The following count AGAINST the graduation rate:

(Included in denominator only)

- Students who receive a state certificate instead of a diploma
- Students who drop out of school
- Students with an IEP allowing extended time in high school
- Students with not enough credits to graduate with their cohort (including those who enrolled in the school already credit-deficient)
- Students who transferred to a non-diploma program (such as GED)

Group C: The following are EXCLUDED from the graduation rate:

(Not included in numerator or denominator – documentation required)

- Students who do not belong to the current cohort
- Students who transfer to a public or private diploma-granting school
- Students who transfer to a Adult Ed high school diploma program (not GED)
- Students who transfer to a diploma program of DJJ or DOC
- Students who leave to be home schooled
- Students who have died
- Foreign exchange students from other countries
- Students who are graduating early (they will be included when their cohort graduates)

Each summer, every high school receives a file listing potential graduates. Students who belong to Group C are removed from the cohort (only with proper documentation). The remaining students are marked as either graduates or non-graduates. Documentation is kept at the school in case of an audit, and the school leader signs a certification letter verifying the graduation rate calculation.

Students whose 9GR is blank or has been changed may be included in the file and must be documented. This requires additional work that can be prevented if the 9GR codes are entered correctly before all reporting deadlines. Students whose 9GR cannot be documented may count against the school's graduation rate.

Note: Graduation and dropout rates are closely related but are NOT equivalent. Dropout rate is not based on the 9GR, while graduation rate is. Students who earn a state certificate or GED are counted differently in the two rates. Dropout rate includes all students in grades 7-12, while graduation rate includes only students in their fourth year of high school. Other differences also exist.