

FAQ's – NEW ACGR Calculation

Based on a recent USDE audit determination, Oklahoma public schools may not include students graduating on the CORE Curriculum pathway in the numerator for graduation rate calculations, but these graduates must be included in the denominator of the calculation. As a result, schools with students graduating under the CORE Curriculum pathway will experience a decrease in their graduation rate in SY 2025-2026. For schools with many such students, the decrease will be significant.

To support the new ACGR calculation, districts may wish to consider the following:

Is a student utilizing CORE requirements eligible to graduate under Oklahoma law?

While a student utilizing core requirements can graduate, per the USDE Federal Monitoring Report, the CORE curriculum does not conform to Oklahoma's definition of challenging academic standards -- defined as preparing students to meet the requirements for full admission to the state's public higher education system. Therefore, these students will not be calculated into the district's adjusted cohort graduation rate.

How should districts inform stakeholders, students, and families regarding the new ACGR calculation?

Districts should follow a clear, transparent, and multi-faceted communication strategy to inform stakeholders, students, and families about changes to the **Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR)** calculation. The ACGR is an important metric for tracking student success and graduation rates, and any updates to its calculation must be clearly understood by all parties. Included is a sample letter template that could be utilized in communicating with parents and community partners.

When should students consider core requirements?

Graduating under the **CORE Curriculum Requirements in Oklahoma** should be considered a **last resort**, only after thorough consultation with a counselor, school staff, parents, and the student. This option is typically for students who have already been accepted into a post-secondary program that conflicts with the ability to College Prep/Work Ready Curriculum requirements. It is very important to advise students regarding the limitations associated with graduating under CORE curriculum requirements. While students and parents may ultimately choose to opt out, please be



advised, students completing the Core pathway will not be calculated into the ACGR for the district.

Can a family OPT back into College Prep/Work Ready Curriculum?

Students who have previously opted out of College Prep/Work Ready Curriculum may wish to opt back in after consultation with school staff. This option should be utilized if the student determines the College Prep/Work Ready Curriculum better aligns with their post-secondary plans.

What is the best method of advisement for students wishing to enroll in post-secondary programs while still in high school and still meet College Prep/Work Ready Curriculum requirements?

It is essential for school staff to engage with students early in their educational journey to develop a strategic plan for their coursework that aligns with their interests, goals, and college or career aspirations. Advising students who wish to pursue career training programs, concurrent coursework, or work-based learning opportunities to complete their core courses during their freshman and sophomore years will provide greater flexibility and opportunities in their junior and senior years.

What are some options schools can consider to increase/expand College Prep/Work Ready Courses?

For information about access to online course options please contact the Office of Standards and Learning, curriculum.instruction@sde.ok.gov

For additional questions or concerns, please email the Student Development Office, student.development@sde.ok.gov

