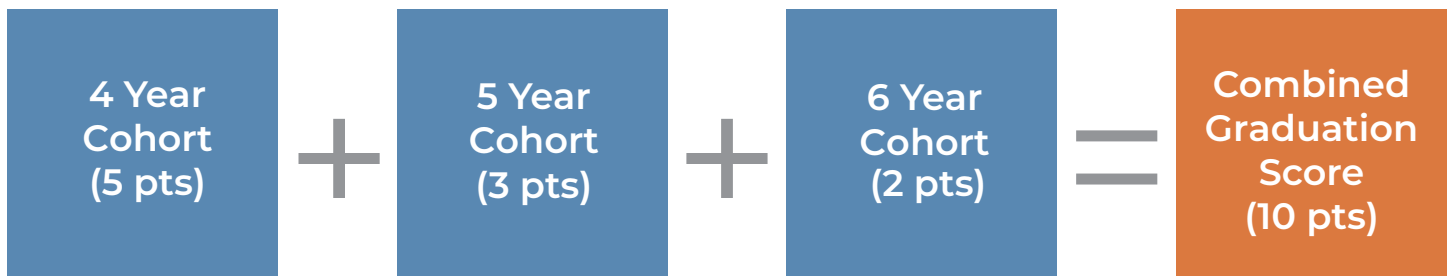## ABOUT THE GRADUATION INDICATOR

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states were required to include goals for high school graduation of all students and federally defined subgroups of students. The Graduation indicator for high schools looks at how Oklahoma schools are providing the guidance and supports students need to graduate. Schools earn up to 10 points for this indicator based on students graduating within four, five or six years.

WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

4 Year Cohort (5 pts)	+	5 Year Cohort (3 pts)	+	6 Year Cohort (2 pts)	=	Combined Graduation Score (10 pts)

The Graduation indicator is based on your four, five and six-year adjusted cohort graduation rates. The Graduation score for each cohort is weighted to reward schools for supporting students that may need extra time to graduate.

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

High school graduation is an essential milestone for many students. Graduating from high school enables students to choose a future path – whether at a two- or four-year college, technical school, workforce training program or military – that aligns with their talents and passions. Further, while all students deserve the opportunity to graduate high school, certain students – including those who have had their education disrupted or who have other special circumstances – may require longer than four years to meet graduation requirements. The Graduation indicator provides greater insight into how schools are supporting all students in attainment of a high school diploma, even when requiring more than four years.

HOW IS THE INDICATOR MEASURED?

The graduation indicator score is a weighted aggregate of your four, five, and six-year adjusted cohort graduation rates. Each graduation rate uses a federally required definition determined by dividing the number of graduates in a given cohort year by the number of students in that cohort. Students are assigned a cohort year upon entering high school, generally four years after their initial enrollment. The student remains in this cohort year even across school or district transfers to another diploma-issuing school. The final cohort used in the denominator of each graduation rate, known as the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR), accounts for students who have exited the cohort. For additional information on cohort adjustment, see the first question in the FAQs on the next page.

The four, five and six-year adjusted cohort graduation rates are weighted and are summed to yield the overall Graduation indicator score.

Measure What Matters
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EQUITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean to "adjust" a cohort?
A student's cohort year refers to the initial entry to an Oklahoma high school. This cohort year remains unchanged for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Oklahoma. The U.S. Department of Education defines this adjustment of removing students from a school's cohort. Therefore, students may only be removed from a school's four-year graduation rate if they meet specific criteria: transfer to another diploma issuing school, emigrate, or pass away. The remaining cohort class is considered the adjusted cohort.

By when does a student need to graduate to be considered "on time"?
The four-year graduation rate for a school includes all students in the given cohort year who met graduation requirements by September 30 of the cohort year. Therefore, the rate includes students who graduated early and those who graduated over the summer.

What if a school has a low graduation rate?
ESSA requires states to identify any high school with an adjusted cohort graduation rate of 67 percent or lower to be identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement(CSI). Due to the number of small schools in Oklahoma, a three-year average is used to account for volatility among small cohort sizes. Therefore, high schools with a four-year graduation rate of 67 percent or lower across a three-year average are identified for CSI. Schools identified as CSI are provided supports and services through the Oklahoma State Department of Education's Office of School Support and Improvement.

What is the data source for this indicator?
Data for the Graduation indicator can be monitored and reviewed throughout the school year through the Accountability Reporting application. The Accountability Reporting application is populated through a school's locally selected Student Information System (SIS) via the Wave. Student-level data used for the Graduation indicator can be found on the Enrollment Graduation tab. This data is reviewed and certified through the Annual Statistical review (ASR) and Enrollment Graduation Data Verification Review (DVR) process. Pursuant to OAC 210:10-13-18(c)(6), the Data Verification Review (DVR) process provides at least 15 calendar days for sites to review data and submit a data verification request as needed.