Montana Statewide Dropout and Graduate Report

Montana Data Use
Culture Conference
September 26, 2017    Helena, MT
Data—Year Nine

- 2008-09 Baseline year.
- Ninth year of a fully functioning student information system, AIM (Achievement in Montana).
- Enrollment records matched on a nine-digit State ID.
Each district was sent a list of its dropouts and graduates, via an online certification system. Authorized representative verified final names and counts.
Dropouts 2015/2016 School Year

According to the AIM collection system:

- Dropouts (grades 7-12) increased from 1,465 to 1,470 in the last year. An increase of 5 students.
- Dropouts (grades 9-12) decreased from 1,421 to 1,418 in the last year.
- Public and State Funded Schools Only
- Montana Youth Challenge
Dropout Rates

- The high school dropout rate stayed unchanged at 3.4% in the last year.

- Increase in number and unchanged rate for grades 7-12 after a one year decrease in 14-15.

- Previous to the 13-14 data, dropouts decreased for seven straight years. One year up, one year down and now one year with unchanged rate.
Peak Dropout Grade

- In 2015-16, peak dropout rates were observed in the 12th grade. The dropout rate for 12th graders increased over last year to 5.4% from 5.0%.
- The 9th grade dropout rate had the biggest decrease in the dropout rate going from 1.4% to 1.2%.
- For the third year American Indian Students peak dropout rates were observed in the 12th grade.
American Indian Dropout Rate By Grade Level

Year
Percent
0% 2% 4% 6% 8% 10% 12% 14%
Gr 12
Gr 11
Gr 10
Gr 9
Gender

- Males drop out of school at a higher rate than females.
  - Males make up 52% of the total school enrollment in grades 7-12 and make up 56% of the dropouts.
  - Females 48% of enrollment and 44% of dropouts.

Male (Grades 7-12) dropout rates decreased over 2014-15 to 2.5% and female dropout rates stayed the same at 2.1%.

Numerically both genders saw a decrease in dropouts.
American Indians

- American Indian students make up 11% of the total school enrollment in grades 7-12.
- American Indian students make up 27% of the total dropouts in grades 7-12.
- American Indian Dropout rate decreased from 6.3% to 5.8%.
- The dropout rate for White students stayed the same at 1.8%.
ESSA and its predecessor mandated reporting of dropout rates by several programs; Special Education, English Learner (EL), and Free and Reduced Lunch.

For high school students the English Learner rate is 3.2 times higher, Free and Reduced lunch is 1.8 times higher and Special Education is 1.5 times higher than the rate for all students.
Graduation Rates

- **2016 Four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate**
  - The graduating class of 2015-2016 is the sixth cohort for which the MT Office of Public Instruction is able to calculate a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. This rate is the percentage of students in a cohort, adjusted for transfers in and out of school, district, or state, that graduate with a regular high school diploma within four years of the student’s first enrollment in ninth grade. For the graduating class of 2016, the cohort began ninth grade in the fall of 2012. The Cohort Graduation Rate replaced the Graduation Rate for AYP calculations in 2012.

- **Completion Rate**
  - Based on the number of graduates receiving a high school diploma regardless of number of years.
Cohort Graduation Rates

- Formula

The number of students in the adjusted cohort earning a regular high school diploma by August 2016
The number of first time ninth grade students in the 2012-13 cohort, adjusted for transfers in and out
Cohort Graduation Rate

- Year Six: a four year Cohort Graduation Rate of 85.6%
- Last year (Year Five) Cohort Graduation Rate was 86.0%.
- The statewide goal for the four year adjusted cohort graduation rate was 85% or show improvement towards this goal (when first adopted in 2010-11).
- First decrease in the Graduation Rate since the Cohort Graduate Rate was started.
- The second highest graduation rate since the implementation of AYP.
American Indian Cohort

- The 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate for American Indian students is 65.6%. Down from 66.6% in 2015.
- The 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate for White Students is 88.7%, the same as in 2015.
Graduates

- There were 9,313 high school completers in 2015-16.
- The Completion Rate is calculated using four years of dropout data.
  - 2015-16 is the ninth year using improved data from AIM.

- The High School Completion Rate increased to 85.8%.
- The Completion Rate for White students increased from 88.5% to 88.8%.
American Indian Graduates

- The Completion Rate for American Indian students increased from 64.7% to 64.8%.
- The American Indian Completion Rate is 24 percentage points below that of White students.
- The percentage of American Indian completers, as a percentage of total completers, increased from 7.7% to 7.9%.
Conclusions

- About the same number of students and percentage wise are dropping out and more are completing high school than in the 2014-15 school year.
- Best year dropout wise in AIM era.
- Digging deeper fewer American Indian Students are dropping out but well above state averages.
- American Indian Students are completing their high school education, but well below state averages.
Conclusions

- Sixth year for 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate.
- Completion Rate and Cohort rates improved or stayed the same for White students.
- A 24 percentage point gap between American Indian and White Students.
- That gap is not showing any, measurable, signs of decreasing.
Questions?