Iowa Department of Education
Student Reporting in Iowa
Addendum F: Dropout Definitions, 2026-2027

According to the CCD definition, a dropout is an individual who:

- Was enrolled in a school at some time on or after Count Date 2025 through September 30, 2026.
- Is not enrolled as of Count Day 2026.
- Has not graduate from high school or completed a state- or district-approved education program; and
- Does not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions:
    - Enrolled in another public school, private school, or state- or district- approved education program
    - Temporary absence due to suspension or school-approved illness; or
    - Death

For the purpose of this definition:

1. The school year is the 12-month period of time beginning on Count Day.
2. Dropouts from the previous summer are reported for the year and grade in which they fail to enroll. For example, a student completing 10th grade in 2025-2026, who does not enroll the next year would be reported as an 11th grade dropout.
3. Individuals who are not accounted for on Count Day of the current year are considered dropouts.
4. A school completer is an individual who graduated from high school or completed a state- or district- approved educational program upon receipt of formal recognition of school authorities.

(the above definition was taken from NCES publication 2011-313)

Note: In order to identify a 7-12 student as having transferred to another school, 'a LEA must confirm in writing that the student transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased...To confirm that a student transferred out, the school or LEA must have official written documentation that the student enrolled in another school or in an educational program that culminates in the award of a regular high school diploma' (Part 200 - Title I - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, 34 CRF Subtitle B, F-1012). If written documentation does not exist, the student must be identified as transferred to unknown, stopped attending no record request, or a dropout.

The above definitions/qualifications translate into the following for state reporting of dropouts in Iowa:
A dropout is a 7 through 12 student whose most recent entry code is a BEDS entry code* who:

1. Completed the 2025-2026 school year but was unaccounted for as of Count Date of the current school year. Note: this includes students completing the 6th grade but unaccounted for in the fall of their 7th grade year (7th grade dropout).
2. Enrolled in a program designed to earn a HISET (or other high school diploma equivalency) or a community college adult education program diploma.
3. Had an unresolved Exit Code from Count Date 2024 to September 30, 2026 (eg, transfer to unknown, stopped attending, no record request received, etc)
4. Reached Maximum Age by August 23, 2026.
5. Was reported as transferred to, open enrolled out to, tuitioned out to, or whole grade sharing out to another Iowa public school district but was never reported by the new district. Note: The last school of attendance/reporting on record is the district responsible for this drop.
6. Is under the age of 16 as of September 15, 2026, and transfers to home-schooling without completing CPI paperwork or without written documentation by parent of educational plans for student to be homeschooled (IPI or PI).
7. Enrolls in Job Corps but does not elect to pursue the educational program that will result in earning a high school diploma.
8. Does not re-enroll in a district after serving an expulsion.
9. Is exited with an illness code ('9').

**BEDS Entry codes for this purpose include the following: '1' Enrolled, '2' Open Enrolled In, '3' Tuitioned In Parent Paid, '4' Tuitioned In District Paid, '5' WGS In, '10' Tuitioned In Out of State, '15' Tuitioned In State Paid, '60' Independent Charter Enrolled and '81' Enrolled in Nonpublic*

A student in Grade 7-12 who…	Is a dropout?
1. Graduated from high school or completed a district-approved educational program upon receipt of formal recognition of school authorities	**No**
2. Only attended summer school in this district - was not enrolled during the regular school year	**No**
3. Reaches maximum age without completing requirements for graduation	**Yes**
4. Died	**No**
5. Left district - whereabouts unknown	**Yes**
6. Moved to another district in Iowa or some other state, not known to be in school (ie, no records have been requested by Count Date)	**Yes**
7. Moved out of the United States, enrollment status unknown	**No**
8. Transferred and <u>has enrolled in</u>…	
a. Another public school (public or private system)	**No**
b. Homeschooling (per Form A or written statement from parent)	**No**
c. Adult education program administered by community college	**Yes**
d. A HISET or other high school diploma equivalency program	**Yes**
9. Is not in school, but is known to be…	
a. Ill/medically fragile*	**No**
b. Suspended or expelled, term of suspension or expulsion not yet over	**No**
c. Suspended or expelled, term of suspension or expulsion over	**Yes**
d. Expelled, enrolled in another school and/or district	**No**
10. In a nontraditional education setting, such as hospital/homebound instruction, residential special education, community or technical college.	
a. Program is off-campus offering of regular school district	**No**
b. Program is not approved or administered by regular district; classified as adult education	**Yes**
11. Is still enrolled in Grade 12 after his/her cohort graduates?	**No**

** Medically fragile is defined as follows: the parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian of a child who is of compulsory attendance age, who is physically or mentally unable to attend school or whose presence in school would be injurious to the health of other pupils, shall furnish proofs by certificate under section 256B.6 and 256B.7 as to the physical and mental condition of the child (IC 299.5)*