



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

November 15, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Five-Year Cohort Reporting

During the 2009-2010 school year, Chalkable announced a three-year phase-in of its new InformationNOW (INOW) platform. Prior to the completion of that rollout, the only data received by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) were in the form of date-specific extracts. These points-in-time extracts or snapshots were for the fall collection (20th day after Labor Day) and end-of-year collection (9th month) reports. There were, and continues to be, some inherent data quality issues with using the data from the fall collection and the end-of-year collection reports. The 2017 Five-Year Cohort has the base school year of 2012-2013 and, as such, falls into that category.

At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the ALSDE Information Systems Section (ISS) began utilizing the accumulator's data to populate applications in the ALSDE Identity Management (AIM) portal to view additional details from the extracts. In addition to ensuring greater accuracy of the data, this change fully addressed recommendations provided by the Office of Inspector General subsequent to its audit of the state's cohort graduation rate. Two applications affected by the nightly accumulated data are the cohort and dropout portals.

The ALSDE is confident that the coordinated effort of local education agencies and the Department has resulted in accurate graduation data for the 2013-2014 Four-Year Cohort. Consequently, a decision has been made to limit the graduation component of the Accountability System and Report Card that will be published in late December 2018 to the 2013-2014 Four-Year Cohort data. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work through these data issues to make sure that our Report Cards are as accurate as possible.

Should you have any questions regarding this change, please contact Dr. Tony Thacker at tthacker@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4710.

EGM/TT/RH

cc: LEA Accountability Coordinators
Dr. Daniel Boyd
Dr. Marilyn Lewis
Mrs. Angela Martin

FY19-2021

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Betty Peters
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Ella B. Bell
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI
Vice President

Jeff Newman
District VII
President Pro Tem

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer