

9th Grade On-Track (90T) Rate

Metric Overview

Metric Definition:

9th Grade On-Track (90T) captures ninth-graders' likelihood of graduating from high school within four years. 9th graders who end the year On-Track are more likely to graduate within four years than their Off-Track peers.

Metric Calculation for Within the School Year: (Data available on CPS Dashboard)

Numerator:

During the school year, students are placed into three different On-Track categories:

- **On-Track:** No semester failures in a credit-bearing course and pacing towards earning 7+ credits in their 9th grade year.
- **On-Track: On Watch:** One semester failure in a credit-bearing course or pacing toward earning 6.5 - 6.99 credits in their 9th grade year.
- **Off-Track:** 2 or more semester failures in a credit-bearing course or pacing towards earning less than 6.5 credits in their 9th grade year.

Note: Once the school year ends, students that meet the criteria for 'On-Track: On Watch' will be updated to 'On-Track'.

Denominator:

Students who meet the following conditions:

- Students were enrolled at the school and in 9th grade for the reporting period.
- Students were not annualized to 9th grade in any prior year.

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Metric Calculation for End of Year: (Data available on School Profile pages)

Numerator:

- **For District-Managed schools:** Students with no more than one semester failure in a credit-bearing course who earned 6.5+ credits in their 9th grade year.
- **For Charter/Contract schools:** Students with no more than one semester failure in a credit-bearing course who earned 5+ credits in their 9th grade year.

Denominator:

Students who meet the following conditions:

- First-time 9th graders, indicated by:
 - Being annualized to the school and to grade level 9 for the school year.
 - Not being present in any prior 90T reporting cohort.
- Students that can accurately be evaluated against On-Track criteria, indicated by either:
 - Having a final grade in both semesters 1 and 2.

OR

- Having a dropout or unverified transfer leave code, as well as more than 5 enrollment days. These students will be designated 'Off-Track' in the metric.

Key Business Rules and Exclusions:

- The district-level 90T rate only includes district-managed schools.
- Failures in non-credit bearing courses are not evaluated.

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Example Calculation: **Within the School Year**

DISTRICT-MANAGED SCHOOL A

35 Students earned 7 credits in their 9th-grade year with no course failures + **5 Students** earned 6.5 credits in their 9th-grade year and failed 1 semester of a credit-bearing course

58 Students in 9th grade - **3 Students** repeating 9th grade
- **5 Students** no longer enrolled at the school

80%
= On Track Within
the School Year

Students Off-Track: 8 Students had 2 or more semester failures in the 9th-grade year.
Two (2) Students earned 6 credits in their 9th-grade year.

$$\frac{\text{STUDENTS ON-TRACK} + \text{STUDENTS ON-TRACK: ON WATCH}}{\text{9TH GRADE STUDENTS} - \text{STUDENTS REPEATING 9TH GRADE} - \text{STUDENTS NO LONGER ENROLLED}} = \frac{40}{50} = \mathbf{80\%}$$

Example Calculation: **End of Year**

DISTRICT-MANAGED SCHOOL A

33 Students earned 7 credits in their 9th-grade year with no course failures + **5 Students** earned 6.5 credits in their 9th-grade year and failed 1 semester of a credit-bearing course

55 Students in 9th grade - **3 Students** repeating 9th grade
- **4 Students** verified transferred

79.2%
= On Track
End of Year

Students Off-Track: 7 Students had 2 or more semester failures in the 9th-grade year.
Two (2) Students earned 6 credits in their 9th-grade year. One (1) Student dropped out of CPS after being enrolled at the school for a semester.

$$\frac{\text{STUDENTS ON-TRACK} + \text{STUDENTS ON-TRACK: ON WATCH}}{\text{9TH GRADE STUDENTS} - \text{STUDENTS REPEATING 9TH GRADE} - \text{TRANSFER STUDENTS}} = \frac{38}{48} = \mathbf{79.2\%}$$

9th Grade On-Track (90T) Rate

9th Grade On-Track (90T) Use Case and Reports

9th Grade On-Track (90T) is an indicator which, when combined with other metrics, provides insight into a school's instructional core and grading practices. A variety of factors can contribute to 90T rates, including Daily Learning Experiences, Adult Capacity and Continuous Learning, and Inclusive and Collaborative School and Community as well as other factors that remain outside of the school's locus of control. Schools should evaluate 90T alongside other qualitative and quantitative data to identify students in need of support. Schools can address the root causes that prevent their students from being On-Track through practices included in their Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP). The District will support schools by prioritizing corresponding supports through their strategic plans and by providing targeted resources and support relative to the root cause from the [Office of School Counseling and Postsecondary Advising](#) and the [Office of Student Supports and Engagement](#).

Related Reports:

- [9th Grade On-Track Dashboard Report](#): This report is updated each marking period and uses the Within the School Year metric calculation.
- [CPS Public Data Page](#): This downloadable report is updated annually and uses the end-of-year metric calculation.