

### Year 4 (Grade 12) and Years 5 to 7 Student Outcomes 2015-16

The Secondary Success Indicator (SSI) Fact Sheets incorporate secondary success indicator variables from the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) School Information Systems (SIS). This Fact Sheet focuses on academic attainment based on **Year 4 (Grade 12) student graduation outcomes** as well as outcomes for secondary school students who may continue their studies for up to three years beyond Year 4 (i.e., Years 5 to 7). Included are four main sections: 1) Achievement Outcomes of Year 4 (Grade 12) Students; 2) Year 4 (Grade 12) Students Returning for a Fifth Year; 3) Achievement Outcomes for Year 5 to 7 Students; and 4) Dropout Rate by Years in Secondary School.

### Achievement Outcomes of Year 4 (Grade 12) Students

This Fact Sheet examines what happened to Year 4 (Grade 12) students (most born in 1998) attending school in Fall 2015 in terms of their graduation outcomes. By Fall 2016 (a year later) students were categorized as: 1) graduated or accumulated 30 or more credits; 2) still attending the TDSB; 3) transferred into another educational institution; or 4) dropped out of school.

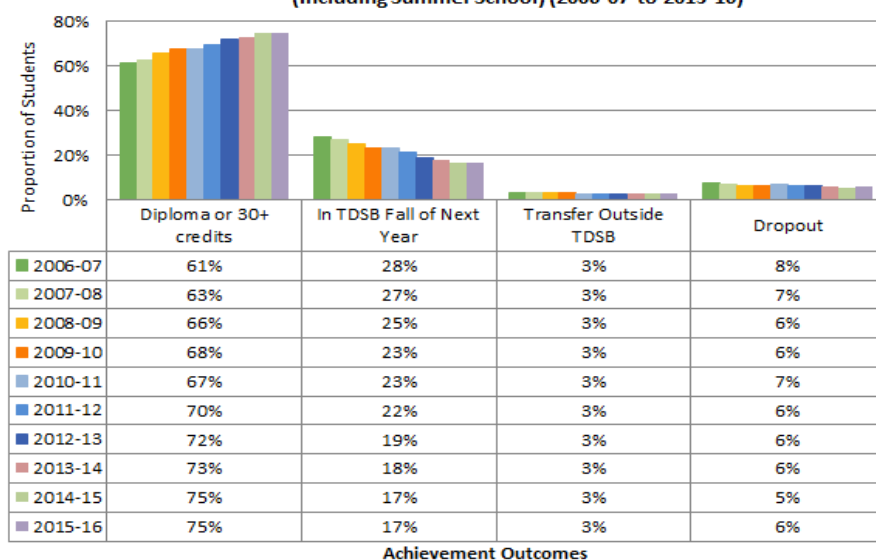
Note: we only looked at a one year (annual) snapshot of the outcomes for this age group. The annual graduation rate of 2015-16 looks at the fourth year of students who started Grade 9 in 2012-13 (this includes students who entered the TDSB after Grade 9).\*

#### The Trend:

*Over time (2006-07 to 2015-16), the proportion of graduating Year 4 (Grade 12) students has increased from 61% to 75%. Consequently, the proportion of students returning to finish high school has dropped from 28% to 17%, and the proportion of dropouts has slightly declined from 8% to 6% (see Figure 1).*

- For Year 4 (Grade 12) students present at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, 7,188 (41%) out of 17,533 were awarded Ontario Scholarships by August 2016. This proportion is approximately 1% more than two years ago.

Figure 1: Year 4 (Grade 12) Student Graduation Outcomes (Including Summer School) (2006-07 to 2015-16)



\* To see how students do over longer periods of time, we look at cohort studies (following Grade 9 students for up to eight years of high school). **Cohort and annual graduation rates are not the same**, since they look at different groups of people or different amounts of time. Many students who drop out will re-enter the Ontario education system at a later time. In contrast to the annual graduation rate, the five-year cohort process (the most recent being the 2011-16 cohort) looks at students who were in the system a year earlier - they started Grade 9 in 2011-12. Thus the two are different groupings and subsequently report varied outcomes. For example, of students who started in Grade 9 in 2011-12, 85% had graduated by the end of five years in Fall 2016 (these students were in Year 4 in 2014-15). By comparison, students in Year 4 in 2015-16 had a graduation rate of 75%. These students are currently in their fifth year this 2016-17 school year and will comprise most of the Grade 9 cohort of 2012-13 next year.



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## Year 4 (Grade 12) Students Returning for a Fifth Year

Past TDSB research has found that many students who graduate from high school continue taking secondary school courses after graduation for an additional school year. To measure students returning to the TDSB, we looked at Year 4 (Grade 12) students who had graduated or completed 30 credits by the end of the school year, and then determined how many of them returned to the TDSB for an additional year of high school. We also looked at Year 4 (Grade 12) students who did not graduate and returned to the TDSB the following year.

### The Trend:

*The proportion of TDSB students (graduates and non-graduates) returning to the TDSB has decreased by about 15% between 2006-07 and 2015-16 (see Figure 2).*

*However, the proportion of graduates returning has slightly declined (9.7% to 6.1%). Collectively, more Grade 12 students are leaving the TDSB than returning, and a higher proportion are now leaving compared to previous years (see Table 1).*

Figure 2: Proportion of Year 4 (Grade 12) Students Returning to and Leaving the TDSB (2006-07 - 2014-15)

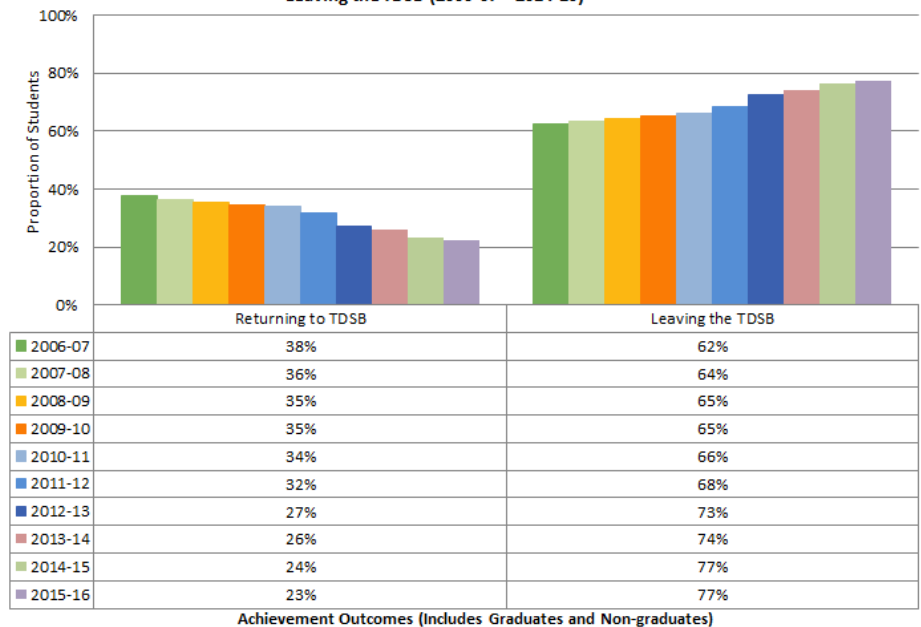


Table 1: Proportion of Year 4 (Grade 12) Students Returning to and Leaving the TDSB

Students		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Students RETURNING to the TDSB	Total (Graduates and Non-graduates)	7388	37.7%	6805	36.3%	6651	35.4%	6521	34.6%	6458	34.0%	6127	31.8%	5273	27.4%	4871	25.7%	4199	23.5%	3964	22.6%
	Graduates Returning the Following Fall	1898	9.7%	1798	9.6%	1935	10.3%	2133	11.3%	2013	10.6%	1982	10.3%	1607	8.3%	1415	7.5%	1184	6.6%	1065	6.1%
	Non-Graduates Returning the Following Fall	5490	28.0%	5007	26.7%	4716	25.1%	4388	23.3%	4445	23.4%	4145	21.5%	3666	19.0%	3456	18.2%	3015	16.9%	2899	16.5%
Students LEAVING the TDSB	Total (Graduates and Non-graduates)	12210	62.3%	11929	63.6%	12116	64.5%	12323	65.4%	12539	66.1%	13182	68.3%	13990	72.6%	14072	74.3%	13681	76.5%	13568	77.4%
	Graduates Not Returning	10144	51.8%	9928	53.0%	10350	55.1%	10588	56.2%	10781	56.8%	11447	59.3%	12249	63.6%	12401	65.5%	12219	68.3%	12068	68.8%
	Transfer to Another Educational Institution	595	3.0%	645	3.4%	606	3.2%	569	3.0%	511	2.7%	527	2.7%	507	2.6%	557	2.9%	495	2.8%	484	2.8%
	Dropout	1471	7.5%	1356	7.2%	1160	6.2%	1166	6.2%	1247	6.6%	1208	6.3%	1234	6.4%	1114	5.9%	967	5.4%	1016	5.8%

# Year 4 (Grade 12) and Years 5 to 7 Student Outcomes 2015-16

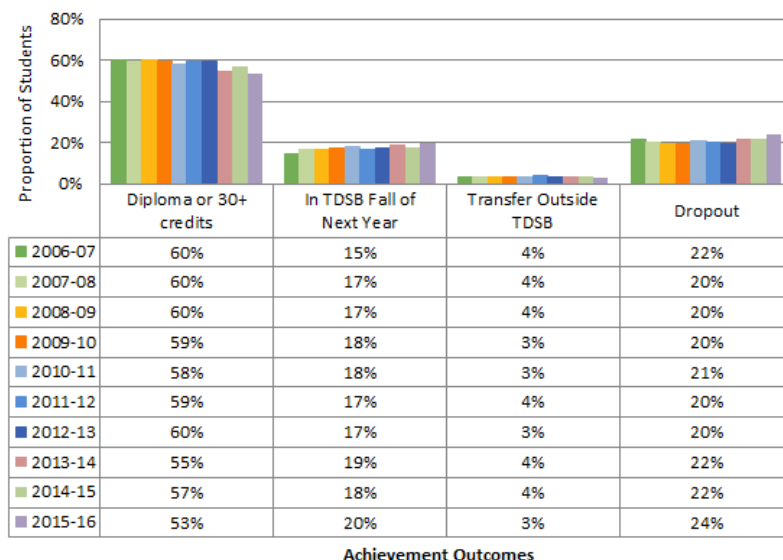
## Achievement Outcomes for Year 5 to 7 Students

This section examines what happened to Year 5 to 7 students (born 1997, 1996, 1995) attending school in Fall 2015, most of whom were in their fifth year of high school. By Fall 2016 (a year later), students were categorized as: 1) graduated or accumulated 30 or more credits; 2) still attending the TDSB; 3) transferred into another educational institution; or 4) dropped out of school.

### The Trend:

*The graduation rate for Year 5 to 7 students has been fluctuating (53-60%) over time. More students are graduating after four years of secondary school and fewer students are returning for additional years. The students who are left may be somewhat more at-risk (see Figure 3).*

Figure 3: Achievement Outcomes of Year 5 to 7 Students (2006-07 to 2015-16)



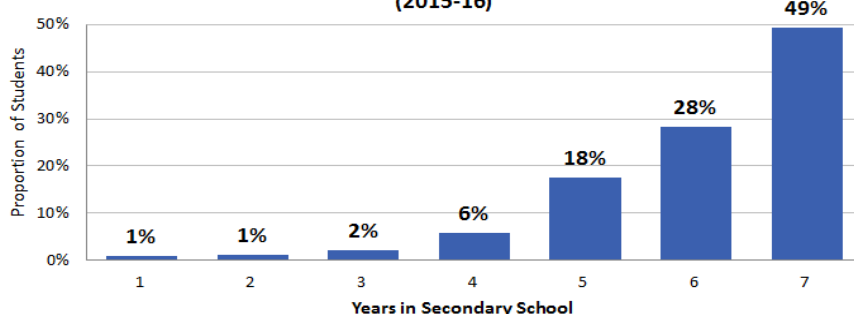
## Dropout Rate by Years in Secondary School

It has been well documented that the dropout rate of students increases as students become older. Figure 4 shows the dropout rate of students from Year 1 (Grade 9) to Year 4 (Grade 12) and three additional years (i.e., Years 5 to 7).

### The Trend:

*The direct relationship of increasing years in school and increasing dropout rate can be seen in Figure 4. Generally, very few students drop out before Year 4 (Grade 12). The dropout rates increase dramatically during Years 5 to 7.*

Figure 4: Dropout Rate by Years in Secondary School (2015-16)



## Why is this information important?

The more recent history of the TDSB has found a gradual but important increase in most secondary school achievement. The proportion of highly 'at-risk' Grade 9 cohort students has incrementally declined over eight years while graduation rates of Year 4 (Grade 12) students have generally increased. The analysis of achievement outcomes of Year 4 (Grade 12) students as well as students returning to the TDSB for a fifth year or more is essential for policy decision making and educational improvement planning. This analysis provides evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of different types of educational programs and interventions within the TDSB.

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