

Newly Identified Graduates Based on 2013 Legislation

Legislation passed during the 2013 session allows a variety of assessments to be used to qualify a student to earn a Minnesota high school diploma. In addition to the GRAD, the allowable assessments include the WorkKeys job skills assessment, the Compass college placement test, the ACT assessment for college admissions, and a nationally recognized armed services vocational aptitude test. [Refer to Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.30, Subdivision 1.](#)

Schools may use the results of any of these assessments as a substitute for one or more GRAD assessments for students who completed credit requirements for graduation but who were denied a diploma due to not passing one or more GRAD assessments. A student needs to attempt one of these additional assessments to fulfill the graduation requirement; the student does not need a passing score.

If a student's expected year of graduation was 2011, 2012 or 2013 and the diploma was awarded by September 15, 2013, the awarding of a diploma may impact the district's and school's 2013 four-, five- or six-year graduation rates that are calculated and published early next spring. A student that was expected to graduate in 2011 would count in the upcoming release of the 2013 six-year graduation rate; a student that was expected to graduate in 2012 would count in the upcoming release of the 2013 five-year graduation rate; and, a student that was expected to graduate in 2013 would count in the upcoming release of the 2013 four-year graduation rate.

The graduation status for students who meet both assessment and credit completion requirements and were awarded a diploma *by September 15, 2013*, needs to be reported on the Fall FY 2014 MARSS files to be counted as graduates in these upcoming graduation rates. These students are considered summer graduates; they are not considered enrolled for state aid purposes. Report:

- Status Start and End Dates: Select a date between July 1 and September 15, 2013. This does not need to be the date the diploma was actually awarded but the diploma must have been awarded no later than September 15, 2013.
- State Aid Category: 98 (summer record)
- Status End: 08 (graduate)
- Grade Level: 12

Students awarded a diploma under this new legislation *after* September 15, 2013, would be reported on the EOY FY 2014 MARSS files with:

- Status Start and End Dates: actual date the diploma was awarded
- State Aid Category: 98
- Status End: 08

- Grade Level: 12

For more detail regarding reporting summer graduates and/or other summer leavers, refer to the MARSS Manual, Reporting Procedure 12.

Superintendents and district assessment coordinators will be sent more detailed information later this month regarding reporting these graduates on the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) as well as the means by which districts can request reimbursement for eligible students' assessments.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will also be sending information about reaching out to former students who may now be eligible for a diploma because of the new 2013 graduation assessment requirements. Based on feedback from districts, MDE is working on a broader messaging plan as well as some tools and resources to support districts in their outreach efforts. Stay tuned for further details that will be sent to superintendents and district assessment coordinators in the coming weeks.

[Contact marss@state.mn.us](mailto:marss@state.mn.us) for assistance with questions about MARSS reporting.