Differences Between the "4 Year Adjusted Cohort" (new) and the "Legacy" (old) Calculation of the Graduation Rate

"New" Four-Year Adjusted-Cohort Graduation Rate

$$\text{Graduation Rate} = \left(\frac{\text{\# of 2012 Graduates + \# of Summer 2012 Graduates}}{\text{\# of first-time 9}^{\text{th}}\text{ graders in Fall 2008 (starting cohort) plus students who transfer in, minus students who transfer out, emigrate or die during the school years 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011- 2012}} \right) \times 100$$

Note: The five-year adjusted-cohort graduation rate formula extends the above calculation, by adjusting the numerator and denominator of the four-year cohort for those students who transfer in, minus those who transfer out, emigrate or die during the 2012-13 school year.

Talking Points:
- Summer graduates are included in the calculation
- The denominator is adjusted for students who transfer in, transfer out and who die at any point within four years of entering the 9$^{\text{th}}$ grade
- The rate included only those students who earn a diploma within four years of entering 9$^{\text{th}}$ grade

"Legacy" Estimated-Cohort Graduation Rate

$$\text{Graduation Rate} = \left(\frac{\text{\# of 2010 Graduates + \# of Summer 2010 Graduates + \# of Grade 13 2010 Graduates}}{\begin{array}{l}\text{\# of 2010 Graduates + \# of Summer 2010 graduates + \# of Grade 13 2010 Graduates +}\\ \text{\# of Grade 9 dropouts in 2007 + \# of Grade 10 dropouts in 2008 +}\\ \text{\# of Grade 11 dropouts in 2009 + \# of Grade 12 dropouts in 2010 - Returning}\\ \text{withdrawals in each year from 2007-2010}\end{array}} \right) \times 100$$

Talking Points:
- Summer graduates are included in the calculation
- The denominator excludes students who returned by the fall of the year immediately preceding their being classified as a dropout (within the four years of the graduation calculation)
- The rate does not consider how long it has taken a student to reach the 12$^{\text{th}}$ grade

Talking Points on Difference between the "Old" and "New" Graduation Rates

Ohio's "Legacy" (Old) Calculation

- Students can change cohorts (groups) and will count as graduates in whatever year they actually earned their diploma

- The calculation does not represent whether students graduated "on time" (i.e., within four years upon entering 9th grade)

- Data are cross-sectional rather than longitudinal meaning that the calculation does not track students based on their Statewide Student Identification (SSID) number. As such, the graduation rate represents the percent of the 12th grade class who had earn their diplomas regardless of how many years they have attended high school

- The calculation is adjusted for students who dropped out of school and return to complete their graduation requirements only if the students return by October of the calendar year when the students are reported as dropouts. Students who return after that period are represented as both dropouts and graduates

- Students with disabilities are treated as "on time" graduates regardless of the number of years it takes to earn their diploma

- Students are considered as graduates for the schools and districts that last reported these students, regardless of how long students spent in their respective schools and districts

- The calculation varies across states making multistate comparisons difficult

Ohio's Four-Year Adjusted-Cohort (New) Calculation

- Students are not permitted to change cohorts (groups) once assigned to the group based on when they first enter the 9th grade for the first time in an Ohio school

- The calculation does represent whether students graduate "on time" (i.e., within four years upon entering 9th grade)

- Data are longitudinal meaning that the calculation tracks students based on their Statewide Student Identification (SSID) number. As such, the graduation rate represents the percent of students who earned their diploma within four years upon entering high school

- The calculation is adjusted for students who drop out of school and return at any time within the four year period to complete their graduation requirements. This rate more accurately accounts for students who transfer, dropout, and return to the system by following students (if the same SSID is used throughout the student's high school career)

- Students with disabilities are treated as "on time" graduates only if they obtain their diploma within four years of entering ninth grade. Students with disabilities who remain in school after completing their graduation requirements to receive services permitted by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will not be considered as "on time" graduates.

- Students are considered as graduates for the schools and districts that last reported these students, regardless of how long students spent in their respective schools and districts

- The calculation is consistent across states making multistate comparisons easier