



Employability Credential Report

Pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws §59-39-100

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Section 59-39-100(2)(D) of the South Carolina Code of Laws provides that: “The department shall monitor the number of diplomas and employability credentials earned by students and shall report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly biannually by February 15, beginning in 2020.”

In the 2023–24 school year, South Carolina provided 114,475 students with disabilities services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), of which the majority were able to earn a state high school diploma.

Given the varying levels of student achievement, as well as the inability of some students to complete required high school coursework, there is an alternative course of study (Employability Credential) for students with disabilities to demonstrate their ability to transition into the work community. The uniform State-recognized Employability Credential is aligned to a career ready course of study for students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team determines this course of study is appropriate for the student. The first class of students graduating with the Employability Credential was in 2022.

Because the first class of students earned the Employability Credential in 2022, the agency began submitting reports on the number of diplomas and Employability Credentials earned by students with disabilities in accordance with Section 59-39-100(2)(D) in 2022. Below is a table displaying statewide numbers of students with disabilities who have graduated with a diploma or Employability Credential from 2019–24.

Table 1. *Statewide Numbers of Students Graduating with Diploma or Employability Credential*

School Year	Number of Diplomas	Number of Employability Credentials
2019	3,186	0
2020	3,249	0
2021	3,099	0
2022	3,360	348
2023	3,751	472
2024	3,509	501

Exiting Data included in Table 1 displays the number of youths with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular high school diploma or an Employability Credential (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A)).

Exiting Data displayed in Table 1 was collected from Table 4 Exiting Data. Table 4 Data includes the number of youths with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular high school diploma or Employability Credential (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A)).

The goal of the Office of Special Education Services (OSSES) is that 75% of students with IEPs graduate with a Diploma or Employability Credential by 2030. Data analysis captured from Table 4 Exiting Data 2021–22 to 2023–24 indicated a growth trend of 61.30% to 67.77% of students with an IEP graduating with a Diploma or Employability Credential. This growth trend supports meeting or exceeding the OSSES target goal of 75% of students graduating with a Diploma or Employability Credential by 2030.

Table 2. Percentage of Students with IEPs Graduating with a Diploma or Receiving an Employability Credential

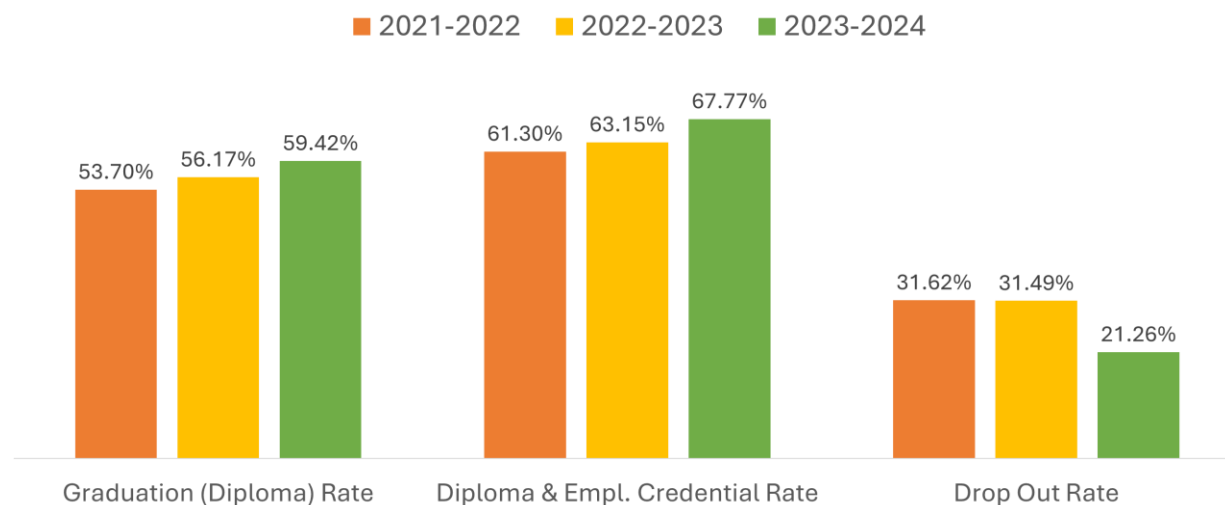


Table 2 displays the percentage of students with IEPs exiting with a Diploma, Dipoma and Employability Credential, and Drop Out Rate from 2021–22 to 2023–24. As Table 2 displays, there is a growth trend each year of students with IEPs graduating with a Diploma from 53.70% to 59.42%. For students with IEPs graduating with a Diploma or Employability Credential, the data displays a growth trend each year from 61.30% to 67.77%. The data displays a decreasing trend of Drop Out Rate for students with IEPs from 31.62% to 21.26%.

Exiting Data displayed in Table 2 was collected from Table 4 Exiting Data. Table 4 Data includes the number of youths with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular high school diploma or Employability Credential (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A)).

References

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A))

S.C. Code of Laws §59-39-100 (2017)