



Employability Credential Report

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

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Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education

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Employability Credential Report

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 with appropriate services and supports.

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 Employability Credential students completed their requirements and received their credentials 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 state-wide numbers of students with disabilities who have graduated with a diploma or exited the Employability Credential from 2019–2024.

Table 1. *State-wide Numbers of Students Exiting 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	*3,584	501

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

*3,584 students exited with a diploma, an increase of 75 students from the 3,509 students exiting with a diploma reported in January 24, 2025, Employability Credential Report. The January report used preliminary numbers that were available at that time. The data in this

report reflects a small increase that occurred when a final count of diplomas and credentials was completed and verified.

Table 1 was collected from IDEA 618 Exiting Data which includes the number of youths with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) graduating from high school with a standard high school diploma or exiting with the Employability Credential. (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A))

The Office of Special Education Services’ (OSES) goal is that 75% of students with IEPs graduate with a diploma or exit with the Employability Credential by 2030. Data analysis of IDEA 618 Exiting Data for years 2021-22 to 2023-24 indicates growth from 61.30% to 68.19% for students with an IEP graduating with a diploma or exiting with the Employability Credential. This growth supports the OSES target goal of 75% of students graduating with a diploma or exiting with the Employability Credential by 2030.

Table 2. *Percentage of Students with IEPs Graduating with a Diploma, Percentage of Students with IEPs Graduating with a Diploma and Exiting with the Employability Credential, and Percentage of Students with IEPs who Dropped Out*

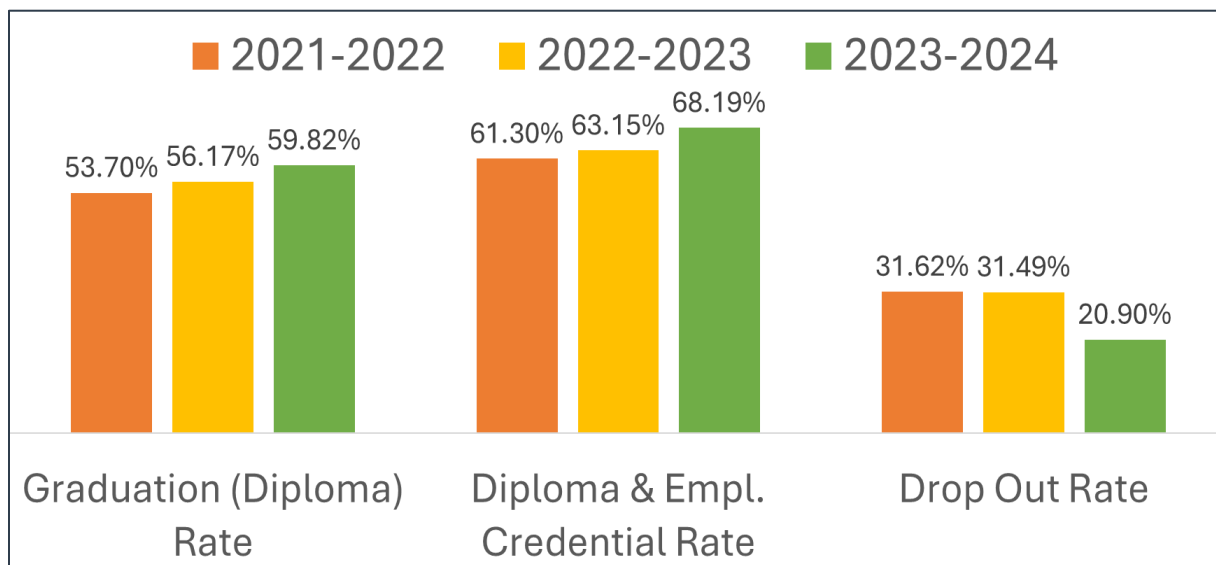


Table 2 displays the percentage of students with IEPs exiting with a diploma, the percentage students with IEPs graduating with a diploma and exiting with the Employability Credential, and the dropout rate for students with IEPs from the 2021-22 school year to the 2023-24 school year. As Table 2 shows growth each year in students with IEPs graduating with a diploma from 53.70% to 56.17% to 59.82%. For students with IEPs graduating with a diploma or exiting with the Employability Credential, the data shows growth each year from 61.30% to 63.15% to 68.19%. The data also shows a decrease in Drop Out Rate for students with IEPs from 31.62% to 31.49% to 20.90%. Data displayed in Table 2 was collected from IDEA 618 Exiting Data.

References

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1467 (A)(3)(A))

South Carolina Code of Laws §59-39-100 (2017).