



Employability Credential Report

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

May 12, 2026

Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education

Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Employability Credential Report	Error! Bookmark not defined.
References	5

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 2024–25 school year, South Carolina provided services to 114,284 students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The majority of these students are 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 exited with a diploma or Employability Credential from 2022–2025.

Table 1. *State-wide Numbers of Students Exiting with Diploma or Employability Credential*

School Year	Number of Diplomas	Number of Employability Credentials
2021-2022	3,360	348
2022-2023	3,751	472
2023-2024	3,584	501
2024-2025	4,109	554

Exiting Data displayed in Table 1 was obtained from exiting data (Table 4 Exiting Data) collected and submitted annually to the US Department of Education pursuant to IDEA requirements. This data includes the number of students with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular high school diploma or Employability Credential. (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A)).

554 students exited with an Employability Credential in 2025, this number reflects an additional student from 553 students reported on the February 19, 2026, Employability

Credential Report. The slight increase was due to delayed submission of Table 4 Exiting Data from a Local Education Agency (LEA).

The South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSES), has set a goal that 75% of students with IEPs will graduate with a diploma or receive an Employability Credential by 2030. Data analysis captured from Table 4 Exiting Data 2021-22 to 2024-25 demonstrates significant improvement over the course of four years for students with IEPs with respect to exiting outcomes (see Table 2 below). Based on this improvement, and with continued support at both the State and district levels, OSES believes that the State can achieve the target goal of 75% of students with IEPs graduating with a diploma or receiving an Employability Credential by 2030.

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

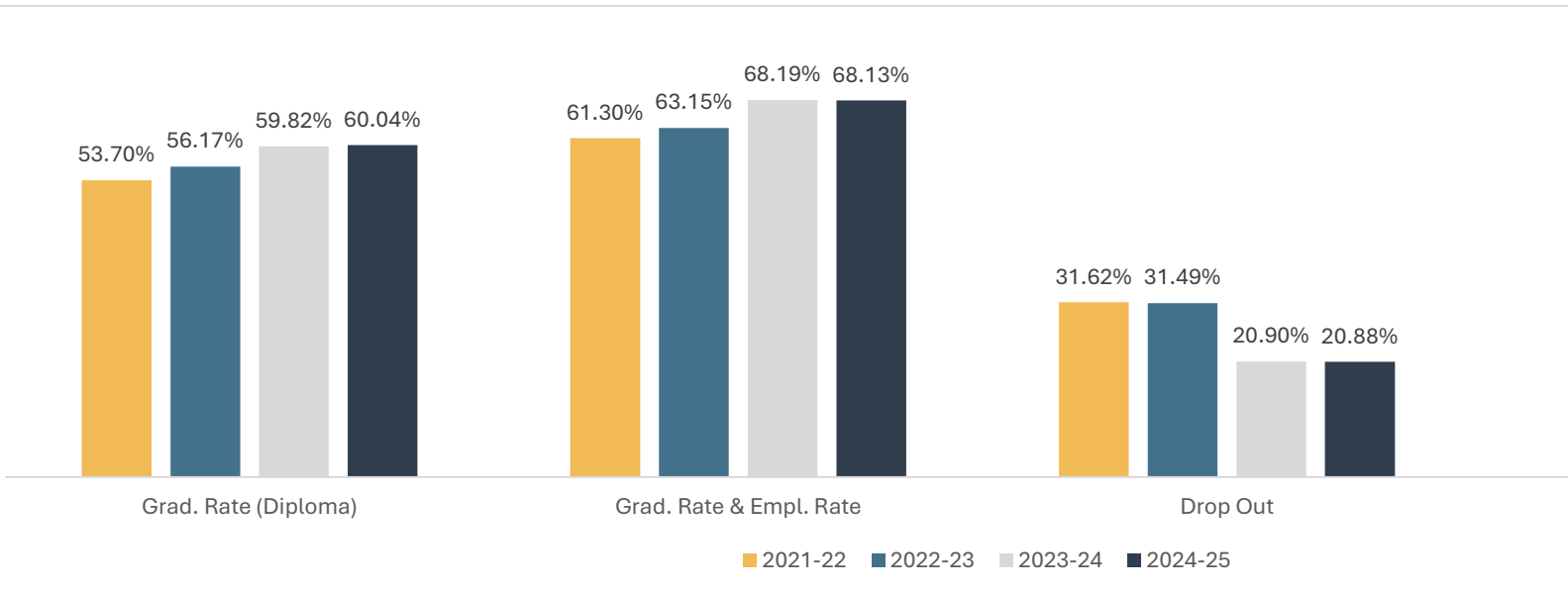


Table 2, which also utilizes Table 4 Exiting Data, displays the percentage of students with IEPs exiting with a diploma, the percentage of students with IEPs exiting with a diploma or an Employability Credential, and the Drop Out Rate for students with IEPs from 2021-22 to 2024-25. As Table 2 illustrates, there is a growth trend of students with IEPs graduating with a diploma from 53.70% to 60.04%. For students with IEPs graduating with a diploma or Employability Credential, the data displays an overall growth trend from 61.30% to 68.13%. The data also displays a decreasing trend of Drop Out Rate for students with IEPs from 31.49% to 20.88%.

References

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

S.C. Code of Laws §59-39-100 (2017)