

Grad to 9th Grade Ratio

High school “Grad to 9th grade Ratio”: Ratio of graduates in a given year to all 9th graders four years previously.

This ratio is simply the number of graduates in a given year to the number of 9th graders four years previously. It can be seen as the ratio that the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) is trying to predict, but with the caveat that the CPI only needs to use two adjacent years of school data, whereas the ratio of grads to four year prior 9th graders needs consistent data for a four year period. Compared to the CPI, the “Grad to 9th grade Ratio” will be slower to respond to changes in the district or the local economy that affect dropouts, grade retention, or in or out-migration.

This ratio is NOT the probability of graduating of the typical entering 9th grader. Like the CPI, this ratio will be affected not only by the dropout rate, but also by the proportion of high school students who are retained in grade, as well as on the net number of students transferring in or out of the high school or school district. Two districts can have the same dropout rate for the typical entering 9th grader, but the district that retains more students in 9th grade will have a lower Grad to 9th grade Ratio”. Two districts can also have the same dropout rate for the typical entering 9th grade, but the district that is in a slow growth region will tend to have more net out-migration of high school students, and hence have a lower “Grad to 9th grade Ratio”.