

This summary provides information to school systems regarding how and when a student who participates in LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 1 (LAA 1) and receives a diploma is included in cohort graduation indices for the purpose of calculating school performance scores (SPS).

HOW DO STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE LAA 1 EARN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS?

Students who take the LAA 1 may earn a high school diploma in one of two ways:

1. The student meets all graduation requirements outlined in the [diploma pathway for students assessed on the LAA 1](#). Students should be designated as L1 (Jumpstart Career Diploma (Alternate Pathway for LAA1) on the diploma pathway field in the Student Transcript System.
2. The student entered high school during the 2014-2015 school year or prior, s/he meets the requirements for a certificate of achievement and s/he meets one of the three transition requirements outlined in [Act 833](#) (2014) and listed below. Students should be designated as CD (historical career diploma) on the diploma pathway field in the Student Transcript System.
 - Employment in integrated, inclusive work environments, based on the student's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to sufficient self-help skills to enable the student to maintain employment without direct and continuous educational support from the school district
 - Demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills that indicate that he does not require direct and continuous educational support from the school district
 - Access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education or employment or education options for which the student has been prepared by the academic program

HOW DOES COHORT GRADUATION DATA CONTRIBUTE TO SPS?

The SPS for high schools is composed of four indices, each contributing 25 percent of the total score along with progress points. The indices are designed to recognize the exceptional work that schools do ensure that students are career and/or college ready.

- End-of-Course Index
- ACT Index
- Graduation Rate Index
- Strength of Diploma Index

The **graduation rate index** is the number of students who graduate with a regular high school diploma divided by the total number of cohort members.

The **strength of diploma index** assigns points to students based the strength of their exit (e.g., GED v. diploma with advanced credential). The points for all students are averaged to produce the index (see the table below), including students who graduate with a diploma through the pathway for students assessed on the LAA 1 as described in Number 1 above. Diplomas earned through one of three transition requirements are not included in the index.

HOW ARE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN LAA 1 COUNTED IN THE GRADUATION INDICES?

Beginning with graduates in 2015-2016, the following rules apply to students who meet all graduation requirements outlined in the diploma pathway for students assessed on the LAA 1 (see Number 1 above):

- In the cohort graduation rate (and index), the students will continue to be counted as non-graduates.
- In the strength of diploma index, the students will be eligible for 100 points as shown in the Student Results table below.

- The students will be included in the strength of diploma index for the year in which they graduated, or the year in which they exited, after at least four years in high school with no subsequent re-enrollment by October 1 of the following academic year.

Students who are pursuing a diploma through this pathway should not be exited from their last school of record until they (a) exit and do not intend to return to school, (b) earn a diploma, and/or (c) reach the age of twenty-two. Please note, the following rules apply to students who exit at the end of four years and have no subsequent re-enrollment by October 1:

- The students will be assigned a zero in the strength of diploma index the year of exit but will be eligible for 100 points in a subsequent year if they earn a diploma through the pathway for students assessed on LAA1 no later than the year of their twenty-second birthday.
- The students will be included in the strength of diploma index at the school where they are currently enrolled if they remain enrolled in the same LEA at which they were enrolled at the end of four years or are enrolled in their current school for at least forty-five (45) days.

In all prior years, students who took the LAA 1 earned zero points in the SPS.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED TOWARD THE STRENGTH OF DIPLOMA INDEX?

The table below, found in Bulletin 111, Chapter 6, describes the points awarded to various levels of cohort graduation student results for the purpose of the strength of diploma index in SPS.

Student Result	Points
HS diploma plus* (a) AP score of 3 or higher, IB score of 4 or higher, or CLEP score of 50 or higher; OR (b) Advanced statewide Jump Start credential <i>*Students achieving both (a) and (b) will generate 160 points.</i>	150
HS diploma plus* (a) At least one passing course grade for TOPS core curriculum credit of the following type: AP**, college credit, dual enrollment, or IB**; OR (b) Basic statewide Jump Start credential <i>*Students achieving both (a) and (b) will generate 115 points.</i> <i>**Students must take the AP/IB exam and pass the course to earn 110 points.</i>	110
Four-year graduate (includes Career Diploma student with a regional Jump Start credential)	100
HS diploma earned through pathway for students assessed on the LAA 1	100
Five-year graduate* with any diploma <i>*Five-year graduates who earn an AP score of 3 or higher, an IB score of 4 or higher, or a CLEP score of 50 or higher will generate 140 points.</i>	75
Six-year graduate with any diploma	50
HiSET	25
Non-graduate without HiSET	0

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.