Exceptional Student Services

Frequently Asked Questions
AzEDS SPED Exit

How do I report a student in AzEDS who is completing the 8th grade?

Assuming the student received services and was enrolled through the last day of the school calendar, you would use the SPED LRE exit reason SPED13 "School is out."

If the student moved to another school district prior to the end of the school year, you would use SPED LRE exit reason SPED05 "Moved, known to be continuing."

How do I report students who graduate with an "alternative" high school diploma (one that is not equivalent to that of their regular education peers)?

As Arizona does not provide alternative diploma options, students graduating with diplomas differing from those awarded to regular education peers should not be exited as a graduate. Please review the other questions in this document for additional guidance.

How do I report students who met graduation requirements after their cohort class but before reaching maximum age (e.g., they graduated in 5 years)?

Students in this circumstance meet the federal definition of graduating with a high school diploma and should be reported as such, using SPED LRE exit reason SPED02 "Graduated with regular high school diploma."

What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities if the IEP team exempts a student from certain graduation requirements?

The *FAQ: Graduation of Students with Disabilities in Arizona's Schools* is available on the AZ-TAS (Technical Assistance System) Documents web page for guidance.

How are students reported who have moved and are not known to be continuing?

Students identified as moved and not known to be continuing are to be reported as dropouts, using SPED LRE exit reason SPED07.

In AzEDS, how is a student who left school to be homeschooled reported?

If a student continues to receive special education and related services from the school, then the student should not be reported as exiting the special education program. The LRE would need to be adjusted to match the student's new environment, which would be LRE J "Private school placement, enrolled by parents."

However, if a student leaves the district to be homeschooled and is no longer receiving SPED services, then that student would be reported using SPED LRE exit reason SPED05 "Moved, known to be continuing."

How should truant students be reported in AzEDS?

Report truants as dropouts, using SPED LRE exit reason SPED07 "Dropped out."

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How should students who received a GED be reported in AzEDS?

A student who received a GED should be reported as a dropout, SPED LRE exit reason SPED07. IDEA regulation 34 CFR §300.102(a)(3)(iv) states: "As used in paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(iii) of this section, the term regular high school diploma does not include an alternative degree that is not fully aligned with the State's academic standards, such as a certificate or a general educational development credential (GED)."

How are students reported in AzEDS who:

- Joined the military?
- Got pregnant (and is no longer in school)?
- Got married (and is no longer in school?)
- Is a runaway?
- Is missing/unknown?
- Exited public school whereabouts are unknown?
- Was expelled?
- Has a serious illness/injury (and is not receiving regular or special education)?
- Left school to take a job?

If a student is no longer receiving special education, then report a student in any of the above situations in the dropout category, using SPED LRE exit reason SPED07. Any student who exits special education and does not meet the definition of any of the other exit categories should be reported as a dropout, including students for whom there was no official notice of withdrawal.

How should I report a student in AzEDS whose parents decide they no longer want their child in special education and complete revocation of consent documentation?

Report the student using the SPED LRE exit reason SPED01 "Transferred to regular education."

How should I report a student in AzEDS who left school and enrolled in a community college? The student did not receive a diploma and is not continuing in special education.

Report the student as a dropout, using SPED LRE exit reason SPED07. Any student who exits special education and does not meet the definition of any of the other exit categories should be reported as a dropout.

How should a student who has moved out of state be reported in AzEDS?

If you have evidence (e.g., a request for transcripts) that the student is continuing in an educational program, then report the student using SPED LRE exit reason SPED05 "Moved, known to be continuing" category. It is not necessary for you to know whether the student is continuing in special education. You only need evidence that the student is continuing in an educational program. A transcript request is acceptable.

Suppose you have no evidence that the student is enrolled in an educational program but know that the family is no longer at their last known residence. In that case, you should report the student using SPED LRE exit reason SPED07 "Dropped out."

How is a student who has exited and re-entered reported in AzEDS?

In AzEDS, you must report each time a student is exited and re-entered. AzEDS populates the exit data tables as an unduplicated count by extracting the last known exit status for all students.

How are students reported who did not finish the school year, but did not officially withdraw?

For example, how should a student be reported whose parent removes them from school 2–4 weeks before the last day, with the intent of returning for the fall term next school year? In this case, the family has not moved from their residence; essentially, they are taking an extended vacation.

If a parent did not withdraw the student from school, and the student is simply absent, then you would not report the student as having exited from special education. The student is still receiving special education services in that the student is still enrolled in a special education program. The fact that the student is not attending that program is at the discretion of the student or parent but does not constitute an exit.

How is the exit status reported for vouchered students who attend The Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB)?

ASDB is responsible for reporting SPED participation data to AzEDS, including the exit status, for students that are vouchered to ASDB. Refer to the ASDB Student Reporting resource found on the Data Management AzEDS SPED Reporting page.

Contact

If you have questions regarding this FAQ, please contact the ESS Data Management inbox or call ESS Data Management at 602-542-3962