



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Grad Tracker

Young Scholars' Academy for Discovery and Exploration, New York

Topic: Increased Learning Time: Beyond the Regular School Day

Practice: Evaluate Program

The After School Corporation (TASC) measures expanded learning time elementary and middle schools' progress toward the long-term goal of increasing high school graduation rates and college readiness through evaluating both the process and the impact of the increased learning time work. TASC has developed its own measurement tool, the *Grad Tracker*, to assess year-to-year student progress on school attendance, behavior and academic achievement. This tool measures how many students in elementary and middle schools are on track to graduate; how many are closing in on that status; and how many are not on track to graduate, putting them at risk for dropping out.

Students who meet these three benchmarks are considered to be fully on track to graduate:

- They are proficient in math and English as measured by standardized test scores and grades
- Their school attendance is excellent
- They have experienced no school suspensions

When students fall short in just one way – they fail a course, have less than excellent attendance, or score just below proficiency in English or math – they are closing in on the goal of being on track to graduate, according to this benchmarking system. Students who fail to achieve proficiency in math or English, have at least one suspension, or are chronically absent are considered to be at risk for dropping out.

TASC has developed benchmarks for four age groups: grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 (middle school), and 9-12 (high school).



GRAD TRACKER

Grad Tracker is an evidence-based student data monitoring tool TASC created. We use this tool to gauge students’ progress toward graduation by analyzing three categories of student data: academic proficiency, school attendance and behavior in school. Through Grad Tracker, TASC measures how many students are on track to graduate; how many are closing in on that status; and how many are not on track to graduate, and therefore at risk of dropping out. There are four sets of grade-specific benchmarks for Grad Tracker as outlined below.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADE

	ON TRACK	CLOSING IN	NOT ON TRACK
School Attendance Rate	95%+	89.4%-94.9%	<89.4%
Behavior as Measured by Suspensions	No Suspensions	No Suspensions	1 or more Suspensions

3RD THROUGH 5TH GRADE

	ON TRACK	CLOSING IN	NOT ON TRACK
School Attendance Rate	95%+	89.4%-94.9%	<89.4%
Academic Proficiency*	Level 3 or 4 on all exams	Level 2 on any exam	Level 1 on any exam
Behavior as Measured by Suspensions	No Suspensions	No Suspensions	1 or more Suspensions

*Standardized assessment scores in English Language Arts (ELA), math, science (administered only in 4th grade) and social studies (administered only in 5th grade)

6TH THROUGH 8TH GRADE

	ON TRACK	CLOSING IN	NOT ON TRACK
School Attendance Rate	95%+	89.4%-94.9%	<89.4%
Academic Proficiency*	Level 3 or 4 on all exams AND passed math and English courses	Level 2 on any exam OR failed math OR failed English	Level 1 on math or English exam OR failed math and English courses
Behavior as Measured by Suspensions	No Suspensions	No Suspensions	1 or more Suspensions

* Standardized assessment scores in ELA, math, science (administered only in 8th grade) and social studies (administered only in 8th grade) AND passing math and ELA courses

9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

	ON TRACK	CLOSING IN	NOT ON TRACK
School Attendance Rate	95%+	89.4%-94.9%	<89.4%
Academic Proficiency*	Passed math and English (including algebra in 9th grade) AND all math and science courses are grade-appropriate AND timely credit accumulation	Passed math or English OR some, but not all, math and science courses are grade-appropriate OR missing between 1 and 5 credits	Failed math and English OR not enrolled in any grade-relevant math and science courses OR behind more than 5 credits OR failed at least one Regents exam
Behavior as Measured by Suspensions	No Suspensions	No Suspensions	1 or more Suspensions

* Passing math and ELA courses, course selection and credit accumulation

Note: As more data become available, we will amend these metrics. The metrics presented are designed for New York City public schools, but can be adapted for other localities.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

The markers in this Grad Trackers are evidence-based. Relevant research is listed below.



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