



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Isadore Hall, III  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4085  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hall:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2016, regarding Compton Unified School District (CUSD) and its submission of 2014–15 Cohort Graduation Rate Data. I agree that accurate data is fundamental to transparency for education communities and a basis for improving outcomes for students, schools, and districts.

My staff have reviewed the data submitted by CUSD in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) operational data store (ODS) and it appears as if the district has made corrections. Their 2014–15 Cohort Graduation Rates appear to be consistent with past years.

As background information, school districts start to submit data on the first Wednesday of October and certify a submission of the data in December of each year. School districts are also given another two months to make corrections to the data that have been certified. That means that each year, school districts are given approximately four months to submit and correct their data. Therefore, it is rare for my staff to approve extensions for data submissions. On occasion, a school district may still have inaccurate data and, if needed, at their request we suppress the reporting of the data on the California Department of Education Web site in order not to mislead the general public. Once CUSD has reviewed their cohort graduation rate, if they still believe it is inaccurate then we can take action to not release that data publically.

My staff has compiled a brief history of CUSD's data submission this fall:

- On December 10, 2015, CUSD **certified** their 2015–16 CALPADS data, which was prior to the initial certification deadline of December 18, 2015.
- On January 7, 2016, CUSD **decertified** their 2015–16 Fall 1 data in order to make corrections to the data in the CALPADS ODS.

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- On February 1, 2016, the California Department of Education pulled the four-year cohort data from the CALPADS ODS.
- On March 17, 2016, CUSD was notified about a private preview opportunity to review their 2014–15 four-year cohort outcome data.
  - CUSD's 2014–15 cohort outcome data extracted from the CALPADS ODS on February 1, 2016 showed a total of:
    - 1372 cohort students, 961 cohort graduates (70%), and 342 cohort dropouts (24.9%)
    - 2013–14 cohort data shows: 1544 cohort students, 930 cohort graduates (60.2%), and 491 cohort dropouts (31.8%)

Note: The cohort size has decreased by 172 students between 2013–14 and 2014–15.

It appears that the 2014–15 Cohort Graduation Rate for CUSD is better than in previous years. It is anticipated that the 2014–15 Cohort Graduation Rate will be released publically in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your inquiry and your advocacy on behalf of CUSD and all of our schools in California. If you have further questions about the cohort graduation rate or the data submission process, please contact Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent, District, School, and Innovation Branch by phone at 916-319-0637 or by e-mail at [kashley@cde.ca.gov](mailto:kashley@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

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