April 4 YR Graduation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why are we being asked to do this before the current school year ends?

For the next three cohort years, you will be asked to validate the first three years of the student's graduation data in April/May time frame. In addition, you will have a year-end certification for all students validating the end-of-year status for every student. Four years from now, this April/May validation will no longer be needed and you will only need to certify end-of-year data. This will allow the Maine Department of Education to provide more timely graduation rate data which can be used for the State's Accountability System.

What about summer graduates?

Those who do not complete graduation requirements by the end of a school year occasionally need a little extra time to meet these requirements. Students can be considered an "on-time" graduate if they complete all graduation requirements by August 15th.

What does the column "Early/Expected Graduate" mean?

If there is one in this column the student has graduated early or is expected to graduate based on the exit code placed in the exit status for the current year. If the student graduated early this data cannot be changed, due to the fact it has already been reported to US Department of Education.

What does the column "Currently Enrolled in School" mean?

If there is a 1 in this column the student is currently enrolled in school and does not have an exit code for the current year, as of yet.

What does a 1 in the validate column mean?

If there is a 1 in this column and the word "validate" does not appear in the status column it is due to one of a few reasons. The student has aged out, the student is a fifth-year student, or the student had been recorded as a dropout in a previous year. If there is one in this column and there is NOT one in these other columns, there is something wrong with this record and you will see the status of "validate" for this record.

If there is anything other than a zero or a one in this column, there is definitely something wrong with this record and you will see a status of "validate" for this record.

What does it mean if there is not a 1 in the cohort column?

The student had their first 9th grade enrollment at another school.

What does it mean if there is a one in the dropout column?

This student is/has been deemed a dropout. The column to right "Year Dropped Out" will have a year code indicating the year in which the student was deemed a dropout. (e.g. 2016 is the 2015-16 school year).

What do the Status' mean in the 'Status' column?

Validate: indicates the record must be edited due to errors within the student's enrollment
DOE Updated: indicates that DOE has updated (edited) to the record
SAU Updated: indicates that the District has updated (edited) to the record

How Is a record edited when validate appears in the Status column?

Click on "edit" in the 'Navigation' column or the student's ID in the 'Student ID' column.

What records may be edited in NEO?

Once you have clicked "edit" or the student's ID you will the grades listed in the 'grade' column. Only the grades that are underlined may be edited. Click on the grade that is underlined that needs to be edited. If an edit needs to be made on a grade for the current year which is not underlined, you must make the changes in your own local Student Information System (SIS) and then upload or manually enter them into the States Synergy System.

Do we still have to certify the final graduation results?

Yes, sometime between August 15th and early September, after any summer graduates have been entered, schools will be asked to certify their 4-year, 5-year and 6-year adjusted cohort graduation data.

Are Dropouts going away?

No, dropouts calculations are still required however we have removed this process from the graduation process. Dropouts cannot be completely determined until after the certification of the October enrollments counts. Therefore, the dropout validation process will occur in the October/November time period.