



## Understanding the Graduation Index

This year there is a new component in school accountability for some of New Orleans' high schools. The School Performance Score calculation for high schools that opened in 2006-07 will include the Graduation index for the first time, which counts for 30% of the high school's grade.

### What is the Graduation Index?

The Graduation Index assigns points to a school based upon how well the high school did in graduating their students and how well prepared these students are for post-secondary education. Each student is assigned a point value based upon their obtainment level. For example, a school can receive the maximum 180 points for each student that graduates with an Academic or Career/Technical diploma endorsement, while a student that attended the high school all four years and did not graduate (an Attendee) is worth only 30 points. Any student who dropped out of school during this 4 year period is worth 0 points. See the table below for more details.

Student Result	Points
Academic OR Career/Technical Endorsement	180
TOPS Opportunity Award	160
BESE Approved Industry Based Certification OR TOPS Tech and Dual Enrollment OR TOPS Tech and Articulated Credit	140
Regular HS Diploma	120
GED	90
Skills Certificate/Certificate of Achievement	60
Attendee	30
Dropout	0

Each 9<sup>th</sup> class begins a separate cohort of students. Any student who enrolls in the high school up to October 1 of the Junior Year part becomes part of that cohort. Any student that leaves the school for a legitimate reason (like transferring to another school) is no longer in the cohort.

It takes five years for a newly opened high school to get a Graduation Index. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade class has to graduate, and then the index calculation lags a year so there is time to collect and verify the data. Hence, this year's graduation index will capture how well the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class of 2006, which became the graduating class of 2010, performed.