

**FOOTNOTE 19
ATTACHMENT**

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1 Q Does the Department of Education calculate
2 dropout rates?

3 A Yes, we do. These are annual dropout rates.

4 Q How are these calculated?

5 A Sorry.

6 Q That's perfectly fine. How are these calculated?

7 A So these are prior school year dropouts based on
8 a validation day, which for us is October 1st.

9 We wait an entire year before counting a student
10 as a dropout. So, for example, a student from the 2016
11 school year who is a dropout must first appear in that
12 2016 validation count day file and must fail to reappear
13 the following October 1st, 2017.

14 Q How does the department determine if the student
15 fails to appear for the following year?

16 A If they're not in the validation day file -- and
17 here I should add that it is a locally submitted data
18 file, the department really doesn't do this calculation.
19 We provide the methodology, the business rules to
20 districts. They provide it to us.

21 Q Districts and charter schools just report the
22 data and the state publishes, more or less?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Are the dropout rate calculations and the

1 graduation rate calculation related?

2 A These are not related in any way.

3 Q So the two separate calculations and the
4 reduction in dropout rate would not necessarily affect the
5 graduation rate calculated by NDE?

6 A That is correct.

7 Q Put another way, it's possible for a child to be
8 a non-graduate, a non-dropout and or a non-graduate and a
9 non-dropout?

10 A Non-graduate and a non-dropout? Correct.

11 Q Moving on to the every Student Succeeds Act, as
12 we've been referring to it earlier today, do you know what
13 the Every Student Succeeds Act is?

14 A Yes, I do.

15 Q Has the Every Student Succeeds Act affected the
16 way the graduation rate is calculated by NDE?

17 A Not at this time.

18 Q Why not?

19 A It doesn't take effect until the 17-18 school
20 year and the provisions that we see in ESSA do not require
21 a change.

22 Q Do you know if there's been any decision to
23 change the way it's calculated in future years?

24 A I do not know of any decisions to change our