

2016 - 2017 Senior Exit Survey and Summer Melt Analysis

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BACKGROUND

- The Pennsylvania State Department of Education requires each district to administer an exit survey to outgoing seniors.
- SDP's Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) collects data on students' high school experiences and the supports they received in preparing for life after high school.
- College-intending graduates who do not enroll in a post-secondary institution by the next Fall have experienced "summer melt" (Castleman, Page, & Snowdon, 2013).

OBJECTIVES

- The primary purpose of the senior exit survey is to capture students' post-high school intentions—specifically, whether they are planning to obtain additional education, employment, or to pursue other activities.
- ORE conducts a follow-up analysis in the Fall to examine whether students who indicate post-secondary intent on the senior exit survey actually enroll at post-secondary institutions.

METHODS

- Each Spring, students with 12th grade status access the survey via a link within their student portal.
- Students who indicated post-secondary intent and specified the type of school they plan to attend on the exit survey were included in the summer melt analysis.
- National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data were used to identify students with post-secondary enrollment during the Fall of 2017.
- Post-secondary intent and enrollment were analyzed across student demographics.

FINDINGS

Table 1. Post-secondary Intent by Student Demographics (n = 5,281)

		n	Education	Employment	Other	Military
Gender	Female	2,894	91.3%	5.6%	2.5%	0.6%
	Male	2,387	82.7%	10.5%	4.2%	2.6%
Race / Ethnicity ¹	White	831	87.6%	7.0%	3.5%	1.9%
	Black/African-American	2,708	88.3%	7.9%	2.6%	1.2%
	Latino/Hispanic	807	80.8%	11.9%	4.3%	3.0%
	Asian	712	90.3%	5.3%	3.7%	0.7%
	Other	223	90.6%	3.1%	5.4%	0.9%
Limited English Proficiency	No	4,814	88.4%	7.2%	2.9%	1.4%
	Yes	467	76.7%	13.9%	7.1%	2.4%
Disability/IEP	No	4,972	88.3%	7.2%	3.1%	1.5%
	Yes	309	73.1%	18.4%	6.1%	2.3%
Economically Disadvantaged ²	No	2,443	89.7%	6.2%	2.8%	1.4%
	Yes	2,838	85.4%	9.2%	3.7%	1.7%
Overall			87.4%	7.8%	3.3%	1.5%

¹Results for American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander combined with Other

²Students who are receiving federal assistance such as SNAP or Medicaid

Table 2. Summer Melt of College-Intending Students by Student Demographics (n = 4,608)

		n	Summer Melt
Gender	Female	2,638	26.4%
	Male	1,970	36.1%
Race / Ethnicity ¹	White	727	22.4%
	Black/African-American	2,385	34.8%
	Latino/Hispanic	651	41.5%
	Asian	643	15.1%
	Other	202	23.8%
Limited English Proficiency	No	4,252	29.0%
	Yes	356	48.3%
Disability/IEP	No	4,384	28.8%
	Yes	224	64.3%
Economically Disadvantaged ²	No	2,188	24.1%
	Yes	2,420	36.3%
Overall			30.5%

¹Results for American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander combined with Other

²Students who are receiving federal assistance such as SNAP or Medicaid

- 87.4% of 2016-2017 seniors indicated post-secondary intent (n = 4,614)
- Of the 4,614 seniors with post-secondary intent, 4,608 specified institution type and were included in the summer melt analysis
- 30.5% of seniors with post-secondary intent did not enroll during Fall 2017
- Male students (82.7%) had lower post-secondary intent than female students (91.3%)
- Male students with post-secondary intent had a higher summer melt rate than females (36.1% versus 26.4%) indicating lower Fall enrollment
- Latino students (80.8%) had lower post-secondary intent than their peers
- Latino students with post-secondary intent had a higher summer melt rate (41.5%) than their peers indicating lower Fall enrollment
- Students with LEP, IEP, or economic disadvantaged status had lower post-secondary intent than their peers
- Students with LEP, IEP, or economic disadvantaged status with post-secondary intent had higher summer melt rates than their peers indicating lower Fall enrollment

CONCLUSIONS

- The national summer melt rate ranges from 10-40% (Castleman et al., 2013)
- The summer melt rate for 2016-2017 School District of Philadelphia seniors was 30.5%
- Student demographic groups with lower intent also had higher summer melt rates
- College-intending males, Latino, LEP, IEP, and economically disadvantaged students were more likely to not enroll in a post-secondary institution after high school graduation