



# INTERACTIVE INSTITUTE 2021

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A CULTURE OF HIGH-QUALITY DATA

## Newbie Too (B2): Changes in the Dropout Rate Under the New Measurement Table

April 13–15, 2021



IDEA DATA  
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Collect, Report, Analyze, and  
Use High-Quality Part B Data





# Presenters

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# Intended Outcome

Participants will gain knowledge about the new calculation for dropout rates and target setting for Part B Indicator 2.



# Agenda

- Differences between Option 1 and Option 2
- Setting new baseline and targets
- Strategies for setting targets for the next 5 years
- New IDC/National Technical Assistance Center on Transition The Collaborative (NTACT:C) Indicators 1 and 2 calculator
- Discussion of Kentucky's work on dropout rates
- Q and A

## Indicator 2: Dropout Rate

***Defined: Percent of youth with individualized education programs (IEPs) dropping out of high school***

## FFY 2020 Measurement of Indicator 2— Two Options

**Option 1:** States must report a percentage using the number of youth with IEPs (ages 14–21) who exited special education due to dropping out in the numerator and the number of all youth with IEPs who left high school (ages 14–21) in the denominator.

**Option 2:** Use same data source and measurement that the State used to report in its FFY 2010 SPP/APR that was submitted on February 1, 2012. (Is usually an event dropout rate for students leaving school in a single year.)

# Where Do the Indicator 2 Data Come From?

- **Option 1:** Children With Disabilities (IDEA) Exiting Special Education, FS009
- **Option 2:** National Center for Education Statistic's Common Core of Data

File Specification (FS)

# Option 1: Leaver/Exiter Dropout Rate

Number of  
SWD  
dropouts

**3,437**

Number of  
SWD  
regular  
diplomas

+

Number of  
SWD  
alternate  
diplomas

+

Number of  
SWD  
reached  
max age

+

Number of  
SWD  
certificates

+

Number of  
SWD  
dropouts

**9,100**

+

**413**

+

**0**

+

**611**

+

**3,437**

=

**13,561**

**Dropout Calculation:  $3,437 / 13,561 = 25.34\%$**



# Option 2: Annual Event Dropout Rate

Number of  
SWD  
dropouts

**3,437**

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Number of  
SWD  
enrolled in  
Gr. 9–12

**67,679**

**Dropout Calculation:  $3,437 / 67,679 = 5.08\%$**

**Beginning with the FFY 2021 SPP/APR,  
(the 2023 SPP/APR submission)  
all states must calculate dropout rates  
using what was formerly Option 1,  
a Leaver/Exiter rate formula, using the  
618 Exiting data.**

# Explaining the Difference Between Rates

How to explain the increase in dropout rate to stakeholders

- The same number of kids are dropping out
- The difference is in the size of the **denominator** in the two calculations

Leaver/exiter rate  
**ALL SWD exiters**

versus

Annual event rate  
**ALL SWD enrolled**

# Implications of the New Calculation



- Dropout rates will rise in states newly adopting this calculation
- States adopting the calculation must set a new baseline
- States adopting the calculation must set new dropout-rate targets
- States will have to explain all of this to SEA, LEA, and school staff stakeholder groups; parents; and the voting public
- States *will* need to be proactive about this messaging!

# New Baseline

**Year 1 of using the new calculation will constitute the new baseline.**

**Problem:** Can't make valid comparisons of new exit rates with previous years' event rates, so target setting is complicated.

**Implications:** States must set and report new dropout-rate targets in the FFY 2020 SPP/APR (due February 2022): **BEFORE** FFY 2020 the submission requires use of the new calculation. States now using Option 2 can't just extend their current targets.

# Setting New Targets

**Solution for states now using Option 2:** Go ahead and calculate the dropout rate for FFY 2020 using Option 1, even though you're reporting with Option 2.

Also, go back a few years and calculate the dropout rate using the 618 exiting data and the new calculation.

**Benefits:** This will provide comparable data to inform target setting and information for messaging the change in measurement.

# Setting New Targets (cont.)

- Strategies for target setting
  - Analyze several prior years of data using the new formula
  - Bear in mind the effect of COVID-19 in the short term
  - If there will be slippage due to COVID-19, adjust targets so you show the desired improvement by the end of the SPP
  - Progressive improvement is alright!
- Targets should be
  - Reasonable and realistic
  - Achievable

# Setting Targets—Considerations

- If the dropout data have not fluctuated, how might this affect the rationale for setting new targets?
- Were there LEAs with a large increase or decrease in their dropout rate?
- What else do you need to know; what would be helpful to know about these data?
  - Disaggregate by disability area, race/ethnicity, gender, age, geography, etc.
- Once the target is set, what will you do to help LEAs meet the target?



# Tool: Graduation and Dropout Rate Calculator

- New Excel tool from IDC and NTACT:C that calculates graduation and dropout rates
  - Uses 618 data and supports the new measurement of Indicators 1 and 2
  - Indicates whether the state met or missed the target
  - Indicates whether there was slippage
  - Produces bar chart of the rates
  - Supports accumulation of data across years
- Coming soon to the IDC and NTACT:C websites

618 Exiting Data

Age	Exiting total	Died	Dropped out	Graduated with alternate high school diploma	Graduated with regular high school diploma	Moved, known to be continuing	Reached maximum age	Received a certificate	Transferred to regular education
	<b>Quick rates</b>								
	<b>Graduation rate:</b>	#DIV/0!							
	<b>Dropout rate:</b>	#DIV/0!							

## 618 Exiting Data

Age	Exiting total	Died	Dropped out	Graduated with alternate high school diploma	Graduated with regular high school diploma	Moved, known to be continuing	Reached maximum age	Received a certificate	Transferred to regular education
14	58,882	202	3,608	0	20	40,056	0	5	14,991
15	57,722	270	5,823	0	135	38,078	0	30	13,386
16	66,420	245	11,646	0	5,194	36,266	0	431	12,638
17	203,305	329	18,323	1	135,047	27,598	0	12,118	9,889
18	169,307	214	17,131	0	117,019	14,462	0	15,839	4,642
19	48,747	117	7,777	0	29,808	4,799	16	5,209	1,021
20	20,665	75	3,248	1	8,922	1,680	1,121	5,142	476
21	14,742	47	1,155	0	5,290	675	3,530	3,759	286
14-21	639,790	1,499	68,711	2	301,435	163,614	4,667	42,533	57,329
	<b>Quick rates</b>								
	<b>Graduation rate:</b>	<b>72.23%</b>							
	<b>Dropout rate:</b>	<b>16.46%</b>							

## Dropout Rate Calculator

# SWD dropouts	# Alternate diplomas	# SWD regular diplomas	# Max age	# Certificates
68,711	2	301,435	4,667	42,533

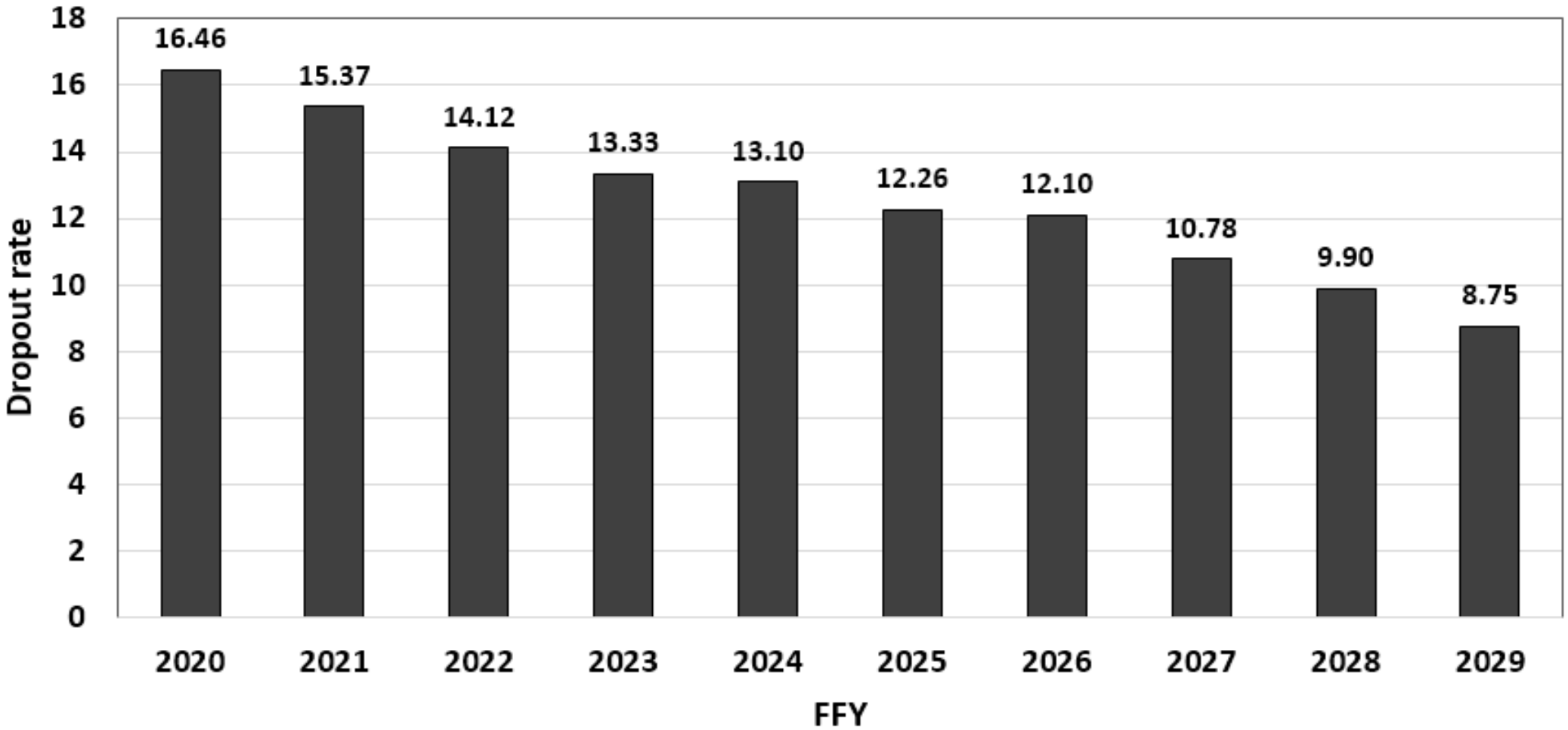
SWD dropout rate: 16.46%

Each year that you run this tool, **type** (don't copy/paste) the new dropout rate from cell B5 into the cell for the corresponding year in the 'Dropout Rate' column (D), below, and save this file. As you accumulate each year, the chart will be updated.

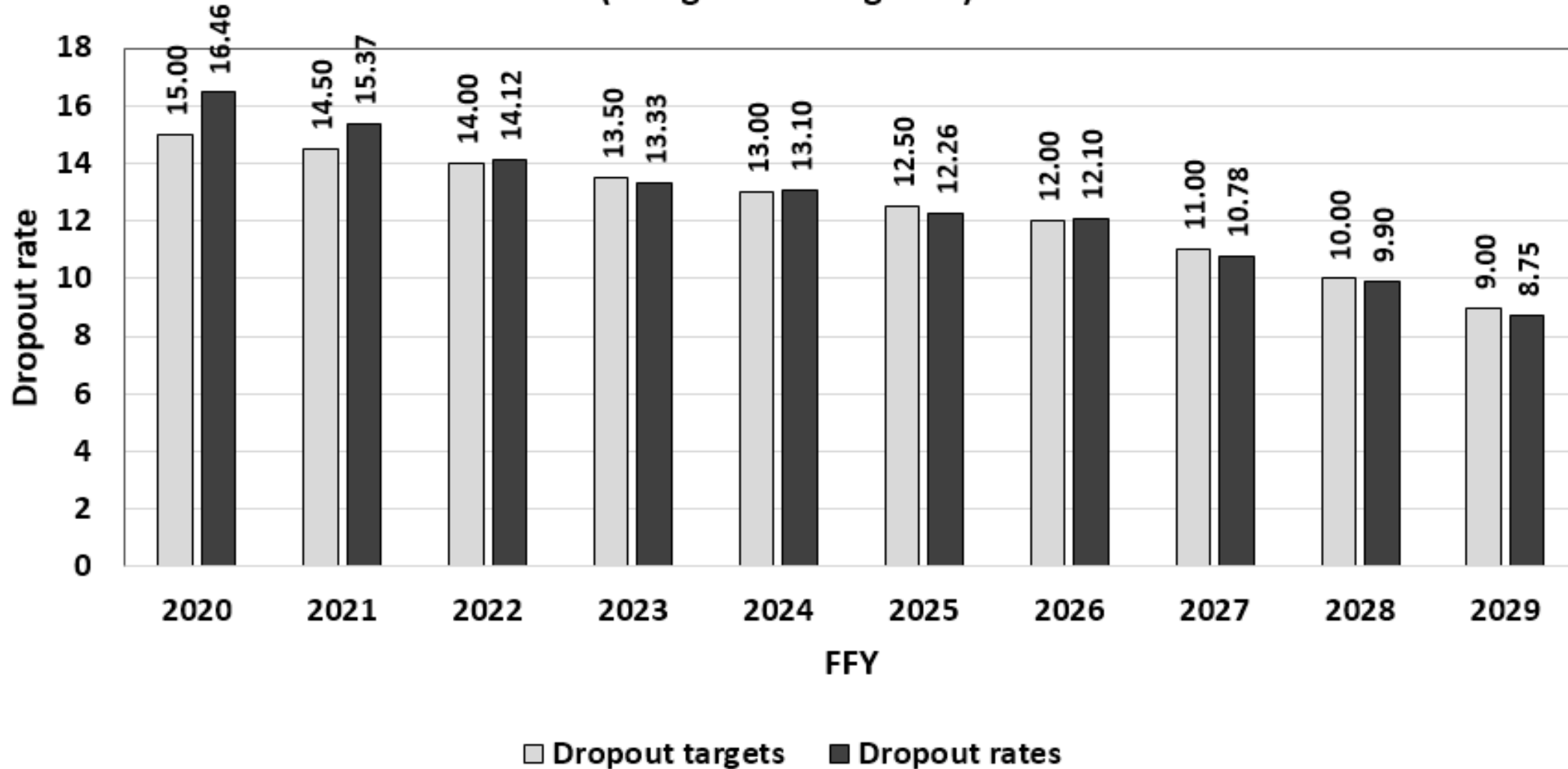
Data (lagged) from this school year	FFY	Year APR is due to OSEP	Dropout rate (%)	Change from last year	Rate changed by ≥ 5 percentage points	Slippage of ≥ 1 percentage point	Dropout rate target (%)	Distance from target	Met or missed target
2019-20	2020	2022	16.46				15.00	1.46	Missed
2020-21	2021	2023	15.37	-1.09	No	No	14.50	0.87	Missed
2021-22	2022	2024	14.12	-1.25	No	No	14.00	0.12	Missed
2022-23	2023	2025	13.33	-0.79	No	No	13.50	-0.17	Met
2023-24	2024	2026	13.10	-0.23	No	No	13.00	0.10	Missed
2024-25	2025	2027	12.26	-0.84	No	No	12.50	-0.24	Met
2025-26	2026	2028	12.10	-0.16	No	No	12.00	0.10	Missed
2026-27	2027	2029	10.78	-1.32	No	No	11.00	-0.22	Met
2027-28	2028	2030	9.90	-0.88	No	No	10.00	-0.10	Met
2028-29	2029	2031	8.75	-1.15	No	No	9.00	-0.25	Met



# Dropout rates for youth with disabilities (Using 618 Exiting data)



# Dropout targets and rates for youth with disabilities (Using 618 Exiting data)



# Kentucky Dropout Data

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Kentucky Data Manager



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# Kentucky's Indicator 2 Data



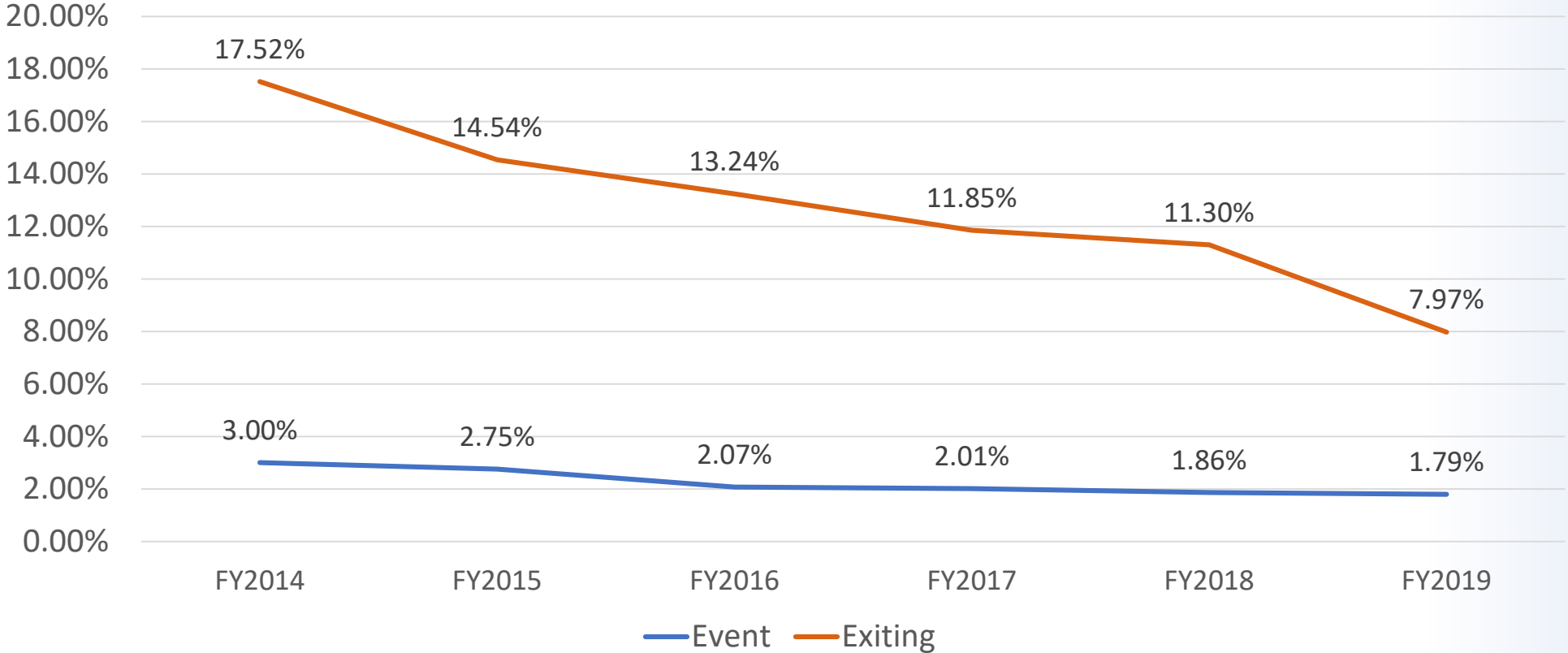
- Internal discussions
  - Option 1 vs. Option 2
  - Trajectories
  - Possible baseline and targets
  - Look at Indicator 1 + Indicator 2
- Stakeholders
  - Suggest Option 1
  - Show and explain difference between old and new data
  - No state-defined alternate diploma
  - Discuss when to select Reached Maximum Age vs. Alternate Diploma



# Kentucky's Indicator 2 Data (cont.)



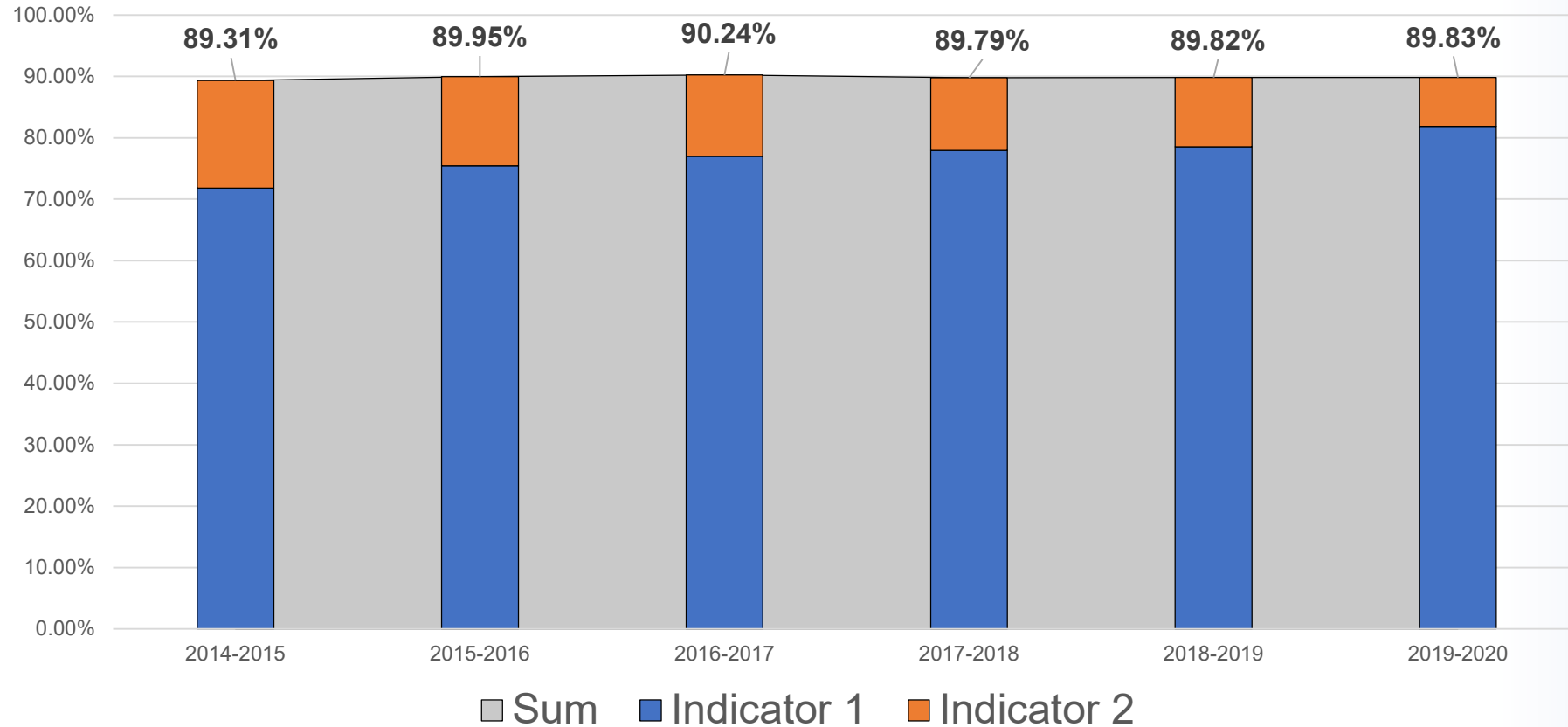
## Dropout Rates



# Kentucky's Indicator 2 Data (cont.)



## Sum of Indicators



# Questions?



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The logo for ii21 features the lowercase letters 'ii' in a white, outlined font, followed by the number '21' in a solid blue font. The '2' and '1' are connected.

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