

## **When must Maryland use an adjusted cohort graduation rate for accountability?**

Current Title I regulations require states and LEAs to report on their annual report cards a four-year graduation rate based on an adjusted cohort, disaggregated by subgroups, at the school, LEA and state levels during the 2010 – 2011 school year. States must also use a graduation rate based on an adjusted cohort for AYP targets beginning with the decisions that are based on the 2011-2012 assessment results. Until that year Maryland will continue to use the Leaver rate to determine if a school, district or state met the AYP graduation target. Maryland has chosen to report these data ahead of the required deadlines so that schools and districts can see what their existing data looks like.

Maryland has reported graduation rates that have been disaggregated by subgroups for many years. Prior to the development of longitudinal data systems, Maryland, like most states, reported the "Leaver Rate" developed by the National Center for Education Statistics and used that calculation for accountability purposes. Maryland has been reporting an *estimated* cohort rate in compliance with Maryland law for several years. Now that the State has the required four years worth of longitudinal data that tracks individual students across years, Maryland will begin to use the adjusted cohort rate for accountability beginning in 2011. This is one year prior to the federal requirement. The Leaver rate will continue to be reported also, to provide complete information about Maryland students and to provide some trend data until new trends.