

# Massachusetts Exit Facts

A Report on Students Who Left Special Education in School Year 1988-89

Second Edition



312066 0272 9393 7

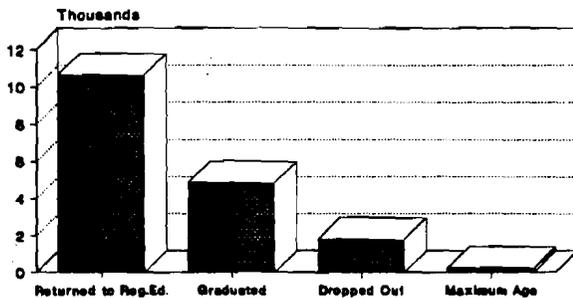
October 1990

Information on students who leave special education is collected by the Department of Education using the Exit Data Report - A Headcount of Students Who Leave Special Education. Specific information collected in this report includes the number of:

- (a) students who no longer require special education services
- (b) students who have returned to regular education
- (c) students who have graduated from high school
- (d) students who have gone on to college, secondary schools, or paid employment
- (e) students who have dropped out of school
- (f) students who have turned 22 years of age and left the education system.

Massachusetts collects data by age and prototype (see Note below for an explanation of prototypes). This data collection effort meets federal reporting requirements, and information is shared with Department of Education staff, state legislators, school personnel, and constituency groups. This is the second edition of this Exit Facts report. Highlights of exit statistics from school year 1988-89 are as follows:

Number of Students Exiting Special Education 1988-89



Note: Prototype refers to the setting where students receive special education services. Prototype 502.1 is a regular classroom program with special education services provided within the regular classroom. Prototype 502.2 is a regular classroom program with no more than 25% of the time spent out receiving specialized services. Prototype 502.3 is a regular classroom program with no more than 60% of the time spent out receiving specialized services. Prototype 502.4 is a small group, special class, public school program where a student spends more than 60% of his or her time receiving specialized services with students with similar needs. Prototype 502.4(i) is a small group, special class, in a facility outside a regular public school, composed of other students with similar special needs. Prototype 502.5 is a private day school program approved by the Division of Special Education. Prototype 502.6 is a private residential program approved by the Division of Special Education. Prototype 502.7 is a home or hospital program recommended by a physician. Prototype 502.8 is a preschool program for 3 and 4 year olds.

## FACT OVERVIEW ...

### Returned to Regular Education

- 7% of all special education students met objectives of the IEP and no longer required special education services.
- 1% left special education for other reasons.

### Graduated

- 32% of 17-21 year old special education students graduated from high school.
- 21% of those who graduated went to college.
- 3% of those who graduated went to other post secondary schools.

### Went on to Employment

- 7% of those who exited the education system went to competitive employment.
- 1% of those who exited the education system went to supported employment.

### Dropped Out

- 7% dropped out of school.  
(Compared to state average in 1988-89 of 5% for all students)  
(Above averages do not add up to 100%.)

### Why Students Left Special Education

Of students who left special education:

- 52% returned to regular education because they met objectives of the IEP.
- 33% graduated and/or went to employment
- 9% dropped out of school
- 5% returned to regular education without meeting objectives of the IEP.
- 1% reached maximum age

Massachusetts Department of Education  
 Division of Special Education  
 Mary-Beth Fafard, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner  
 Marcia Mittnacht, Executive Director  
 Gregory Brown, Data Base Analyst

**RETURNED TO REGULAR EDUCATION**

"Returned to regular education" refers to individuals who are still in the educational system but no longer receive special education services. Most of these students completed all the objectives in their educational plans and no longer require specialized support or instruction in order to fully participate in regular education programs. A very small percentage returned to regular education for other reasons, including:

- students did not want to be in special education and requested to be transferred back to regular education
- parents withdrew students from special education
- school districts placed students in alternative programs within regular education

In 1988-89, 9,745 students returned to regular education after fulfilling the objectives in their educational plans. This represents:

- 56% of the total number of students who exited special education
- 7% of the total number of special education students
- A 3% increase (from 1987-88) in the total percentage of students who exited special education by fulfilling the objectives in their educational plans.

Tables 1A and 1B give specific data regarding the numbers of students who met the objectives of their educational plans and returned to regular education; by prototype and by age. You will note that the majority of students (almost 85%) come from Prototypes 502.1 and 502.2. Although these numbers vary to some extent, generally percentages and trends are consistent from 1987-88 to 1988-89.

Table 1B also illustrates that the majority of students who return to regular education fall into the elementary level age category.

Finally, of the students who returned to regular education, 901 (or 8.5% of students returning) did not complete the objectives of their educational plans, but returned to regular education for other reasons (as described above). This represents approximately a 45% increase over last year.

**Students with Special Education Needs Who Met Objectives and Returned to Regular Education (By Prototype)**

Prototype	No. of Students	Returning Rate (%)*	% From Total**
502.1	2,753	21.53	28
502.2	5,495	8.12	56
502.3	262	1.25	3
502.4	187	.75	2
502.4(i)	29	1.06	0
502.5	15	.36	0
502.6	2	.24	0
502.7	655	88.75	7
502.8	346	7.14	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,745</b>		<b>100</b>

\* % Returning to regular education in specified prototype  
 \*\* Denominator = Total number of students with special education needs that returned to regular education.

(Table 1A)

**Students with Special Education Needs Who Met Objectives and Returned to Regular Education (By Age)**

Age	No. of Students	Returning Rate (%)*	% From Total**
3-4	366	7.1	3.8
5	246	5.9	2.5
6	574	8.0	5.9
7	907	9.0	9.3
8	1,132	9.6	11.6
9	1,140	9.1	11.7
10	1,064	8.8	10.9
11	913	7.9	9.4
12	756	7.1	7.8
13	574	5.6	5.9
14	537	5.3	5.5
15	398	4.0	4.1
16	500	5.3	5.1
17	372	4.4	3.8
18	200	4.8	2.1
19	48	3.7	0.5
20	8	1.1	0.1
21	10	1.8	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,745</b>		<b>100</b>

\* % Returning to regular education in specified age group  
 \*\* Denominator = Total number of students with special education needs that returned to regular education.

(Table 1B)

**GRADUATES**

“Graduates” refers to students who, while receiving special education services, fulfilled their community’s requirements for graduating from high school. Data on students who receive modified or alternative diplomas is not collected. Some students who graduated from high school went on to four year colleges, post secondary schools, or employment settings. Others did not inform school districts of their post high school status.

Students with special education needs who graduated in 1989 number 4,837 and represent:

- 28% of students who exited special education
- 32% of 17-21 year old special education students

This is consistent with last year's data.

Students in Prototypes 502.1, 502.2, and 502.3 have the highest graduation rate (see table 2). Within the prototypes, the most likely age to graduate is age 18. Exceptions occur in prototype 502.7 where most of the graduates are 17 and 18 year olds, and in prototype 502.6 where most of the graduates are 18 or 20 year olds.

Prototype	# of Graduates	Age 17-21 Enrollment	Graduation Rate (%)*
502.1	846	1,478	57
502.2	2,601	5,935	44
502.3	724	2,403	30
502.4	364	2,778	13
502.4(i)	159	823	19
502.5	99	1,096	9
502.6	19	389	5
502.7	25	226	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>15,128</b>	<b>32</b>

\* % Graduating for specified prototype

(Table 2)

**POST SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**College**

“College” refers to special education students who fulfilled requirements for graduating from high school and gained admission into two or four year colleges. Twenty-one percent of students with special needs who received a high school diploma went on to college. From a total of 1,004 students; almost all (94%) were in prototypes 502.1-502.3. Less than 3% were in each of the remaining prototypes.

(see Table 3)

**Other**

“Other” refers to special education students who fulfilled requirements for graduating from high school and gained admission into post secondary schools that are not colleges, such as vocational, technical and business schools. Three percent of special needs students who received a high school diploma went on to other post secondary schools.

From a total of 152 students, the majority (88%) were in prototypes 502.1 - 502.3, and the remaining 12% were in prototypes 502.4, 502.4(i), and 502.5. Data in both post secondary categories is consistent with last year.

By Age	# of Graduates	Post Secondary Education	
		College	Other
3-15	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	-	-	-
17	850	187	32
18	2,588	609	86
19	1,143	180	28
20	167	23	4
21	89	5	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>152</b>

502.1	846	251	19
502.2	2,601	647	86
502.3	724	48	28
502.4	364	24	9
502.4i	159	11	6
502.5	99	1	3
502.6	19	6	1
502.7	25	5	0
502.8	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>152</b>

(Table 3)

**EMPLOYMENT**

"Competitive employment" refers to students who exited the education system while in special education and went on to employment settings without the need of services from other state agencies or support groups. These students may have fulfilled requirements for graduation, dropped out, or exited because of maximum age restrictions (i.e. turned 22 during the school year).

There are 1,429 special education students, (7% of the total who exited), who went on to competitive employment after exiting the educational system.

**Supported Employment**

"Supported employment" refers to students who exited the education system while in special education and went on to job placements which can only be maintained if support services are provided. Examples of support services are: counseling, transportation, technological aides, interpreter services, reader services, and independent living services. These students may have fulfilled requirements for graduation, dropped out, or exited because of maximum age restrictions (i.e. turned 22 during school year).

There are 129 special education students, (1% of the total who exited), who went on to supported employment.

**Students with Special Education Needs Who Exited School to go to Employment Settings (by Prototype)**

Prototype	Competitive Employment		Supported Employment	
	No. of Students	%	No. of Students	%
502.1	183	13	3	3
502.2	724	51	8	6
502.3	298	21	18	14
502.4	113	8	78	60
502.4(i)	83	6	10	8
502.5	19	1	8	6
502.6	2	<1	4	3
502.7	7	<1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>

(Table 5)

**Students with Special Needs who Exited School to go to Employment Settings (by Age)**

By Age	Employment			
	Competitive	%	Supported	%
3-15	N/A	0	N/A	0
16	101	7	6	5
17	295	21	5	4
18	623	43	25	19
19	350	25	25	19
20	46	3	15	12
21	14	1	53	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>

(Table 4)

**MAXIMUM AGE**

"Maximum age" refers to special education students who exited from the education system because they turned age 22 and therefore are no longer eligible to receive special education services. These students did not meet requirements for graduating from high school and did not drop out of school.

There are 250 students who reached maximum age, which represents only 1% of all students who exited special education.

Of the total who reached maximum age, virtually all (just under 100%) were in the prototypes 502.4 - 502.7.

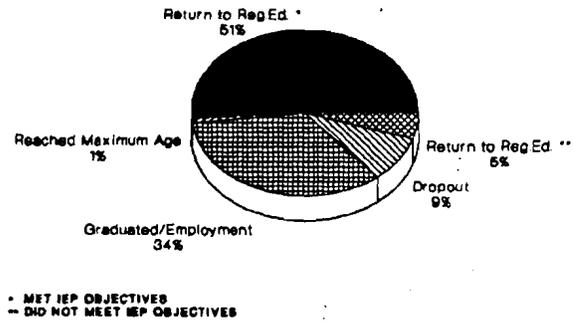
**DROP OUTS**

"Drop outs" refers to special education students ( at least 16 years old) who chose to leave the education system without fulfilling graduation requirements.

There are 1,799 special education students who dropped out of school:

- The 1989 drop out rate for all students who attend public school programs in Massachusetts is 5%.
- The 1989 drop out rate for special needs students is 7%. This represents a 4% decrease from last year.
- 15% of students who drop out have special needs, which is proportionately higher than the incidence of all 16-21 year old students who have special needs (10%).
- Most special education students who dropped out in 1988 were 16 or 17 years old. Beyond these ages, the older the student with special needs is, the less likely he or she will drop out.

**Why Students Left Special Education 1988-89**



**Students with Special Education Needs Who Dropped Out of School (by Prototype)**

Prototype	No. of Students	Dropout Rate *	% From Total **
502.1	141	5.74	8
502.2	677	6.53	38
502.3	389	9.67	22
502.4	297	7.41	16
502.4(i)	219	17.15	12
502.5	54	3.51	3
502.6	7	1.43	< 1
502.7	15	4.55	< 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,799</b>		<b>100%</b>

\* % of Dropouts in specified prototype  
 \*\* Denominator = Total number of students with Special Education needs that dropped out.

(Table 4A)

**Students with Special Education Needs Who Dropped Out of School by Age**

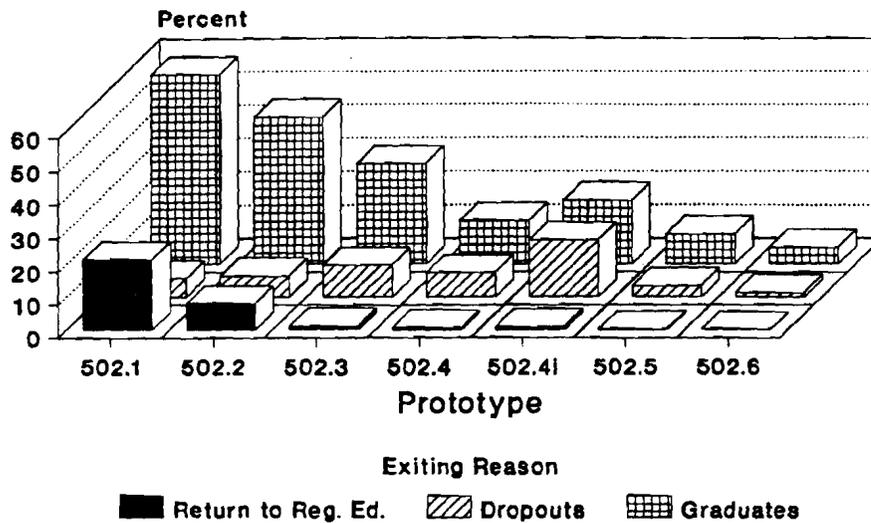
Age	No. of Students	Dropout Rate*	% From Total **
16	641	6.85	36
17	546	6.51	30
18	404	9.76	22
19	153	11.76	9
20	42	5.51	2
21	13	2.44	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,799</b>		<b>100</b>

\* % of Dropouts in specified age  
 \*\* Denominator = Total number of students with Special Education Needs that dropped out.

(Table 4B)

## Summary Information

### Major Exiting Reasons Special Education 1988-89



(percent within prototype)

STUDENTS WHO EXITED SPECIAL EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM						
By Age	Graduate	Post Secondary Education		Employment		Dropped Out
		College	Other	Competitive	Supported	
3-15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	-	-	-	10	6	641
17	850	187	32	295	5	546
18	2,588	609	86	623	25	404
19	1,143	180	28	350	25	153
20	167	23	4	46	15	42
21	89	5	2	14	53	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1,799</b>
By Prototype						
502.1	846	251	19	183	3	141
502.2	2,601	647	86	724	8	677
502.3	724	48	28	298	18	389
502.4	364	24	9	113	78	297
502.4i	159	11	6	83	10	219
502.5	99	1	3	19	8	54
502.6	19	6	1	2	4	7
502.7	25	5	0	7	0	15
502.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1,799</b>