



U. S. Department of Education Performance Goals

While ED clearly strives to support all aspects of public education, ED has also taken steps to ensure the activities it conducts are likely to support the educational success of students by identifying strategic goals and objectives for its program areas. The goals reflect education priorities based on a broad array of the country’s needs, data collected by schools, and legislation passed by Congress. Understanding the objectives that ED identified as essential for helping students succeed academically can also help states and school districts construct similar goals that lead to graduation.

The Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access to education for all students.

Federal legislation helps to shape the strategic planning and goal development of ED and the EHCY program. The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), amended in 2010, requires federal agencies to outline a mission statement, long term goals, and performance measures as a part of a five-year strategic plan. It also outlines requirements for annual reporting on the progress made by federal agencies in meeting their goals. Additionally, within the federal agencies, each program determines measurable goals and targets. GPRA goals for the EHCY program focus on the participation and achievement of homeless students in state assessments for reading/language arts and mathematics in

To download ED’s strategic plan, including information on the strategic goals, click here.

Grades 3 through 8. ED is considering a measure related to an adjusted cohort graduation rate for high school students who experienced homelessness at any point during Grades 9 through 12.

As a part of its strategic plan, ED has adopted a cradle to career education approach to ensure that children have opportunities for learning across all levels of child development, leading to graduates who are college and career ready. To support this strategy, ED has developed four strategic goals for its 2018-2022 strategic plan. They include:

- Supporting state and local efforts to improve learning outcomes for all P-12 students in every community;
- Expanding postsecondary educational opportunities, improving outcomes to foster economic opportunity and promoting an informed, thoughtful and productive citizenry;
- Strengthening the quality, accessibility and use of education data through better management, and increased privacy protections and transparency; and
- Reforming the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of ED.

With the strategic goals in mind, the EHCY program within ED developed leading indicators to evaluate progress toward the goals, as they relate to homeless education specifically. The leading indicators reflect the need to use data to measure progress and ensure that only the most effective practices are supported in educating students. The leading indicators include the following:

- the percentage of homeless students who are chronically absent during the school year, at both the state and LEA level;
- the percentage of states monitored by or reporting to ED in a fiscal year that used LEA data for a risk assessment that results in monitoring and technical assistance based on LEA needs;
- the number of states monitored by or reporting to ED that have updated annual workplans based on LEA data from a needs assessment and measurable goals.

Chronic absenteeism data collections required by *EDFacts* starting with the 2016-17 SY include students experiencing homelessness as a subgroup and will be used to evaluate progress toward the first of the leading indicators. Furthermore, in the summer of 2015, ED began implementing the indicators by collecting information from states to inform ED on the current status of data use by the states. This information serves as a baseline measure for the second and third leading indicators, with a goal of all states implementing them fully by 2020.