RAPSA

REACHING AT+PROMISE STUDENTS® ASSOCIATION

Webinar:
WHEN DROPOUTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Presenters:
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Welcome!

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RAPSA / SIATech Schools

To Ask Questions: Please use the chat box for questions.

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The Problem

- Most recent numbers show over 2.5 million young adults aged 16 to 24 were not enrolled in school or had not received a high school diploma.

- Dropouts are more likely than graduates to experience negative outcomes: unemployment, underemployment, poverty, health problems, and incarceration.

- To raise high school graduation rates, dropout prevention has been gaining momentum.

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Reenrollees

Little research has focused on students who drop out and return to high school

➤ Solving the dropout challenge includes supporting those students who give themselves a second chance at graduating from high school

Learn about:

- Reenrollees by the numbers: quantitative findings

  ➢ The magnitude of reenrollment and characteristics of reenrollees

  ➢ Their education outcomes

- Challenges and suggestions from the field : qualitative findings

  ➢ Push and pull factors for dropping out and reenrolling

  ➢ Challenges districts face when dropouts return

  ➢ Ideas to strengthen policy and practice to improve graduation rates
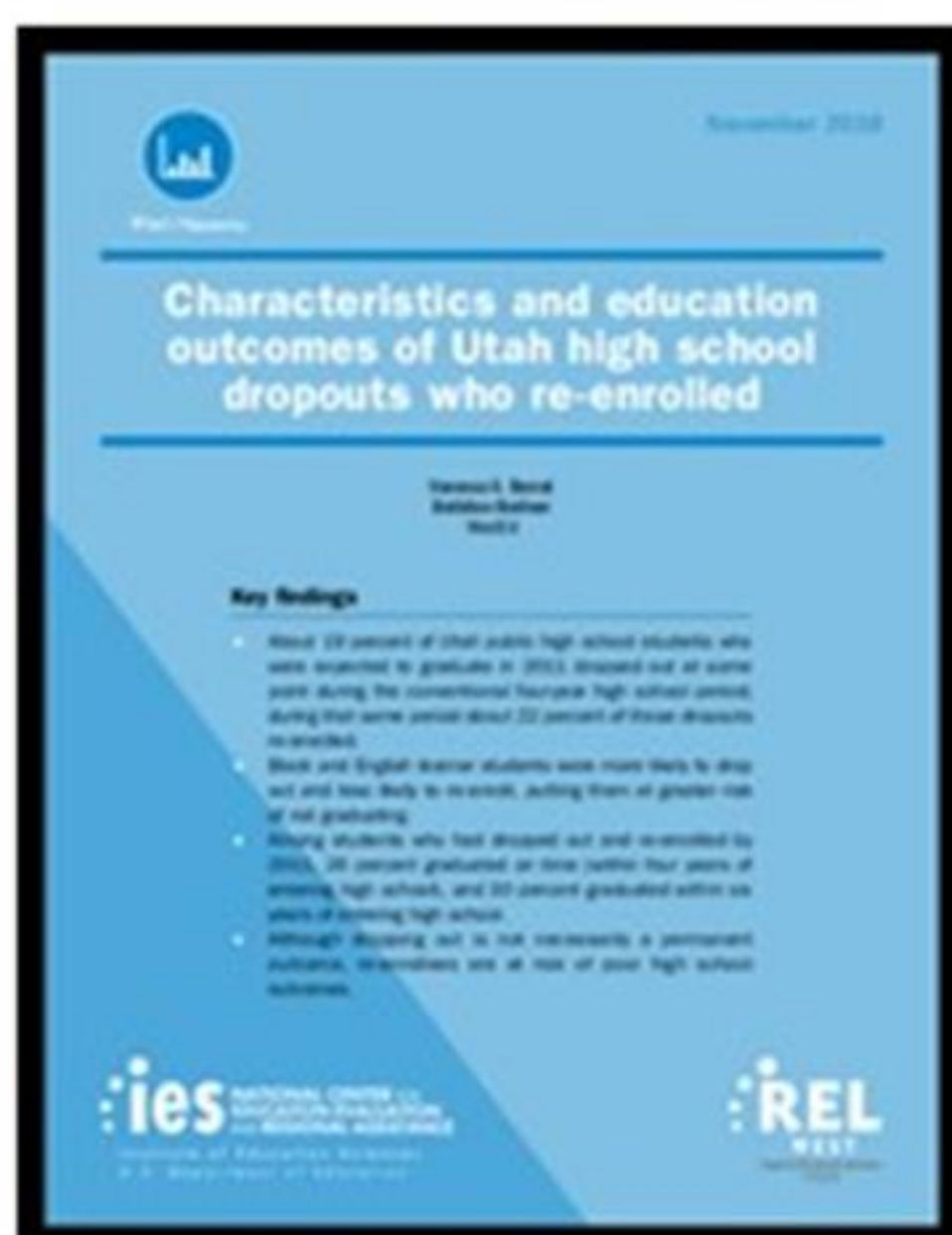
Dropouts who Return to High School

Reenrollees by the numbers

District- and Statewide Studies

- **San Bernardino City Unified School District**
  Followed the enrollment histories of all district first time 9th graders in 2001/02 over 5 years (about 4,000 students)

- **Utah**
  Followed the statewide cohort of students expected to graduate from Utah public schools in 2011 six years after entering high school (about 40,000 students)

Definition of Dropouts

Dropouts are defined according to guidelines established by the National Governors Association (2005):

- High school students who officially **withdrew** from school but were not known to have been in an education program that led to a high school diploma or its equivalent.

- High school students who did not formally withdraw from school but were under the compulsory school attendance age and **stopped attending school and could not be located**.

- High school students who **reported transferring to another district without having their transcripts sent** to the receiving district and were not known to be in an education program that led to a high school diploma or equivalent.
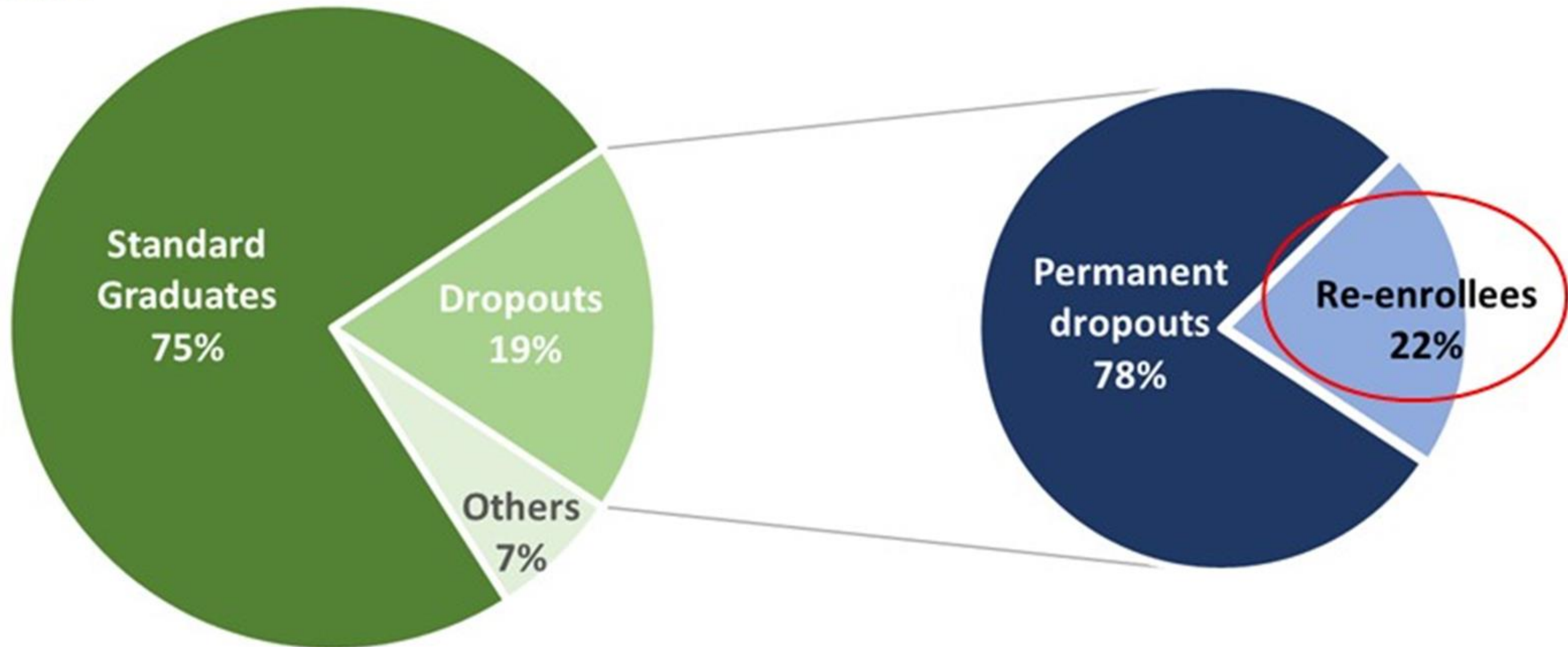
District- and Statewide Enrollment Records

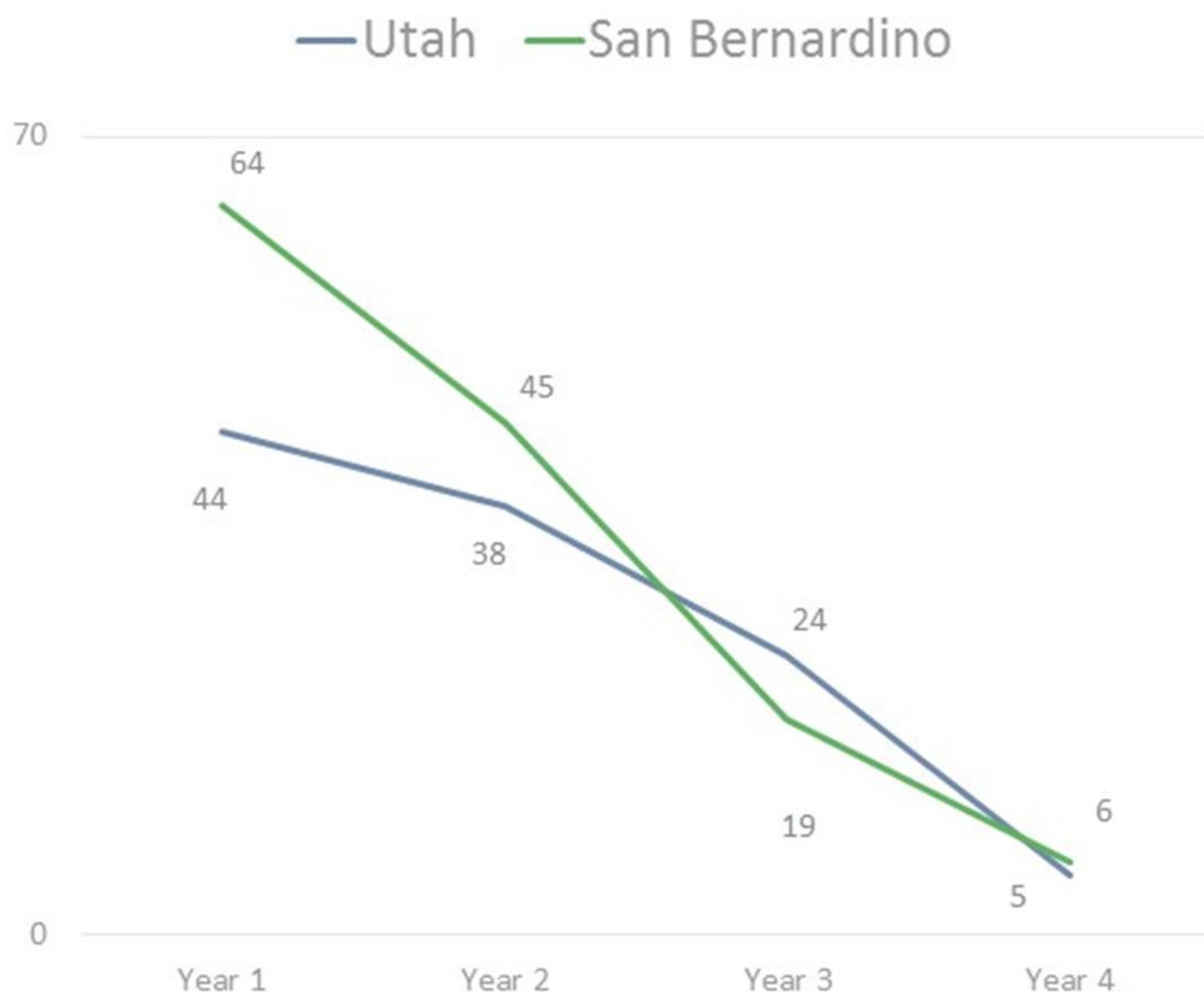District- and statewide data systems :

- Administrative longitudinal enrollment records that allow following students geographically and through time

- For each enrollment record, an exit code identifies the reason for leaving the school

  ➢ Students with an exit code of Dropout, Withdrawn or Unknown were classified as dropouts

  ➢ Students with a subsequent enrollment record after a dropout event were classified as reenrollees

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Magnitude of the Reenrollment of Dropouts

Utah

Reenrollment Rates by Years in High School

Legend: Utah, San Bernardino

Chart data points:
- San Bernardino: Year 1 = 64, Year 2 = 45, Year 3 = 19, Year 4 = 5
- Utah: Year 1 = 44, Year 2 = 38, Year 3 = 24, Year 4 = 6

Y-axis: 0 to 70

X-axis: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4

➢ **Reenrollment rates decreased with years in high school**

- Mounting pressures of credit deficiencies building over time

- Students aging out

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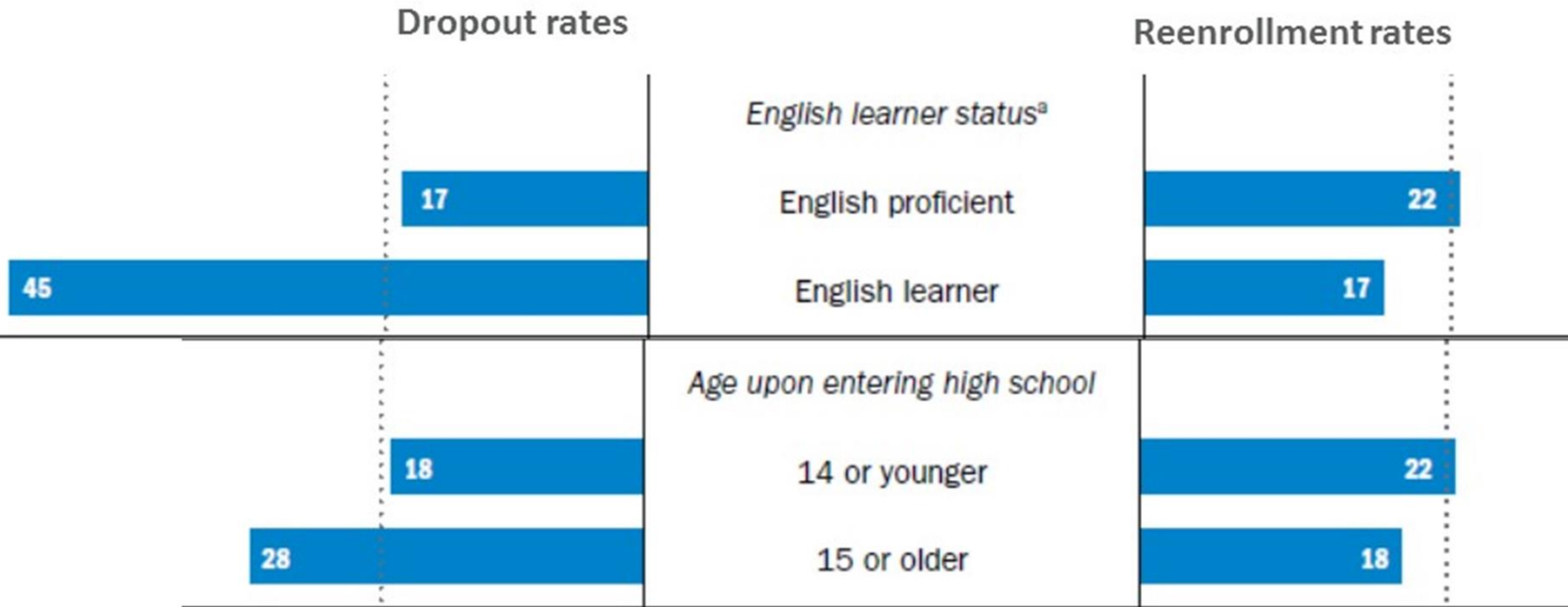# Number of Reenrollments

Utah

Number of reenrollments	Number	Percent
1	1,469	87.3
2	184	10.9
3 or more	29	1.7
Total	1,682	100.0

Reenrollment Rates by Student Characteristics

Dropout rates | Reenrollment rates

Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity	Dropout rates	Reenrollment rates
White	15	22
Hispanic	36	22
Asian	22	14
Pacific Islander	26	14
American Indian/Alaska Native	34	23
Black	30	18

Reenrollment Rates by Student Characteristics

Dropout rates | Reenrollment rates

English learner status[a]

	Dropout rates	Reenrollment rates
English proficient	17	22
English learner	45	17

Age upon entering high school

|	Dropout rates	Reenrollment rates
14 or younger	18	22
15 or older	28	18

Reenrollment Rates by Student Characteristics
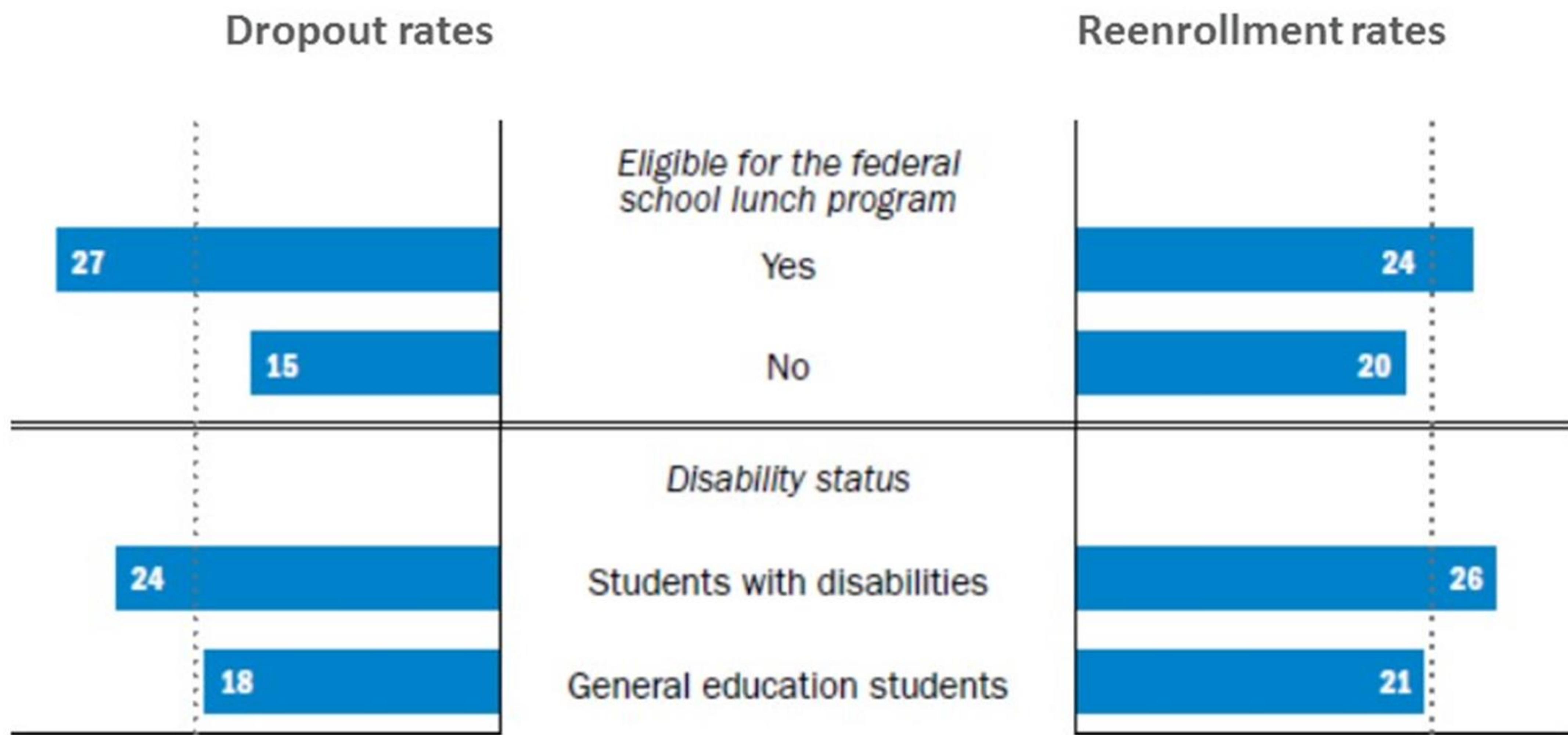
Reenrollment Rates by Student Characteristics

- Hispanic, Black, ELL, and male students were less likely to re-enroll, resulting in higher rates of **permanent** exits

- Students eligible for free or reduced price lunch and students with disabilities students were more likely to re-enroll, resulting in higher rates of **temporary** enrollment interruptions
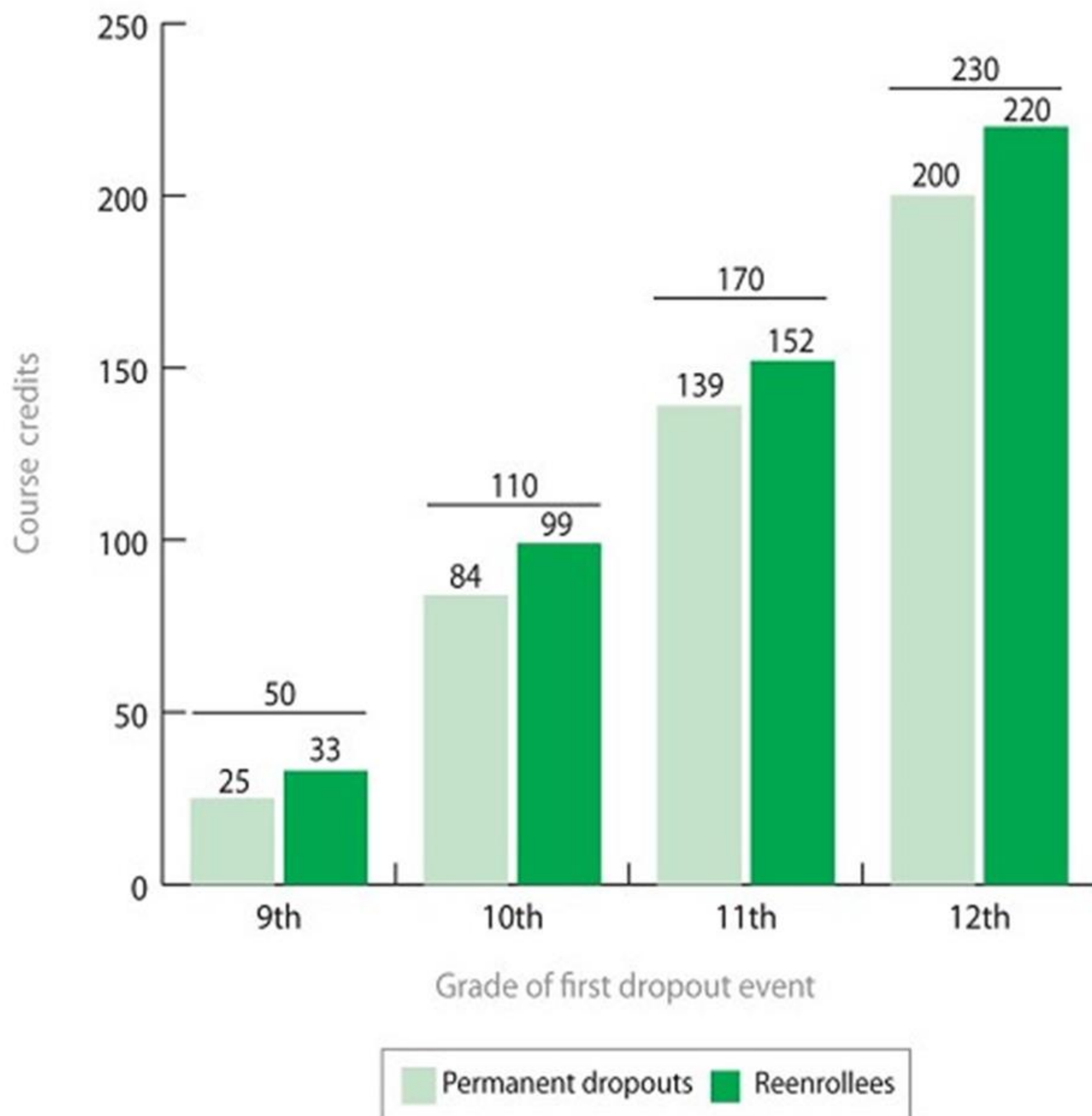
What are the Academic Outcomes before Dropping Out?
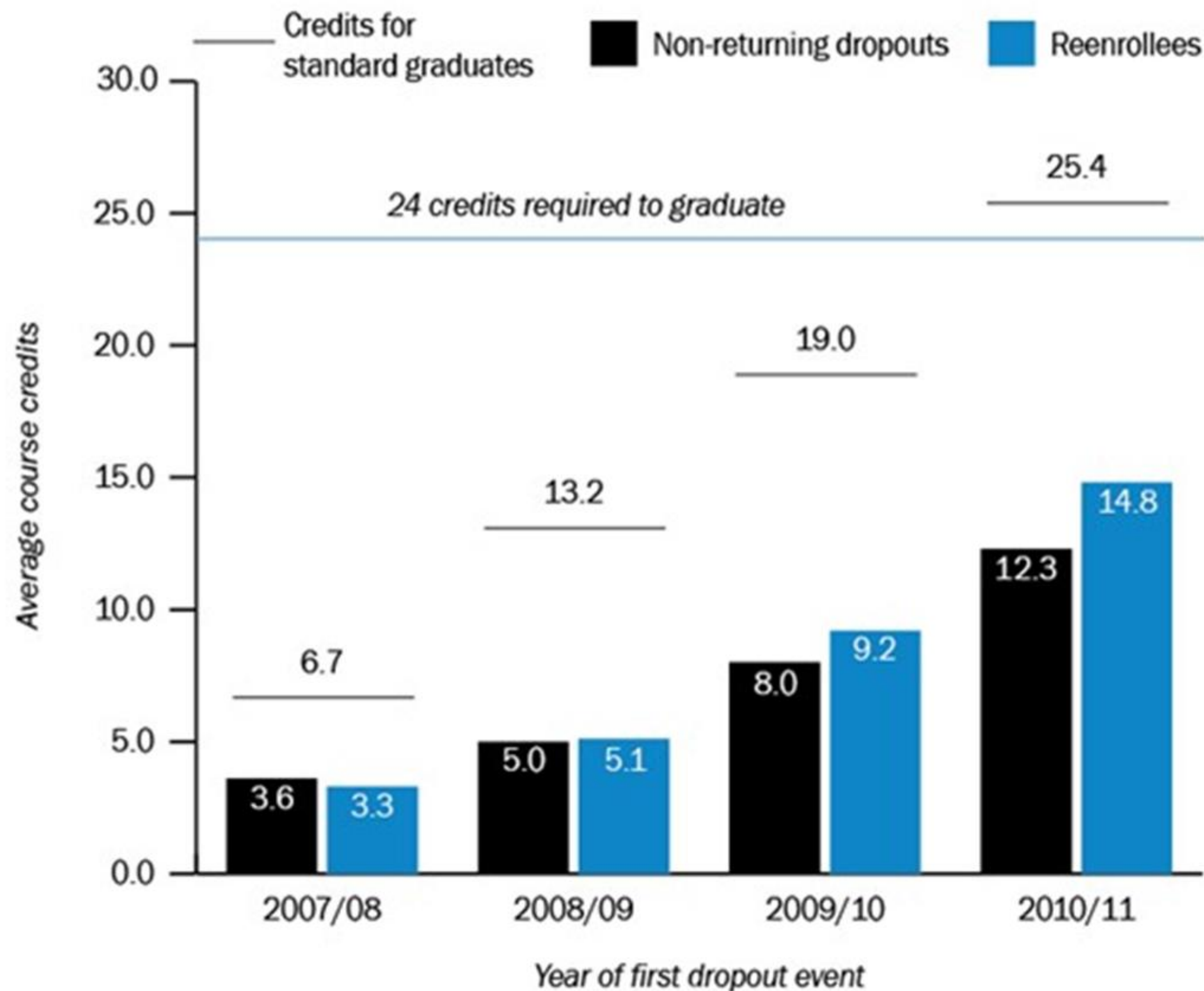
Utah

➤ Before dropping out, both re-enrollees and permanent dropouts were not on-track to graduate

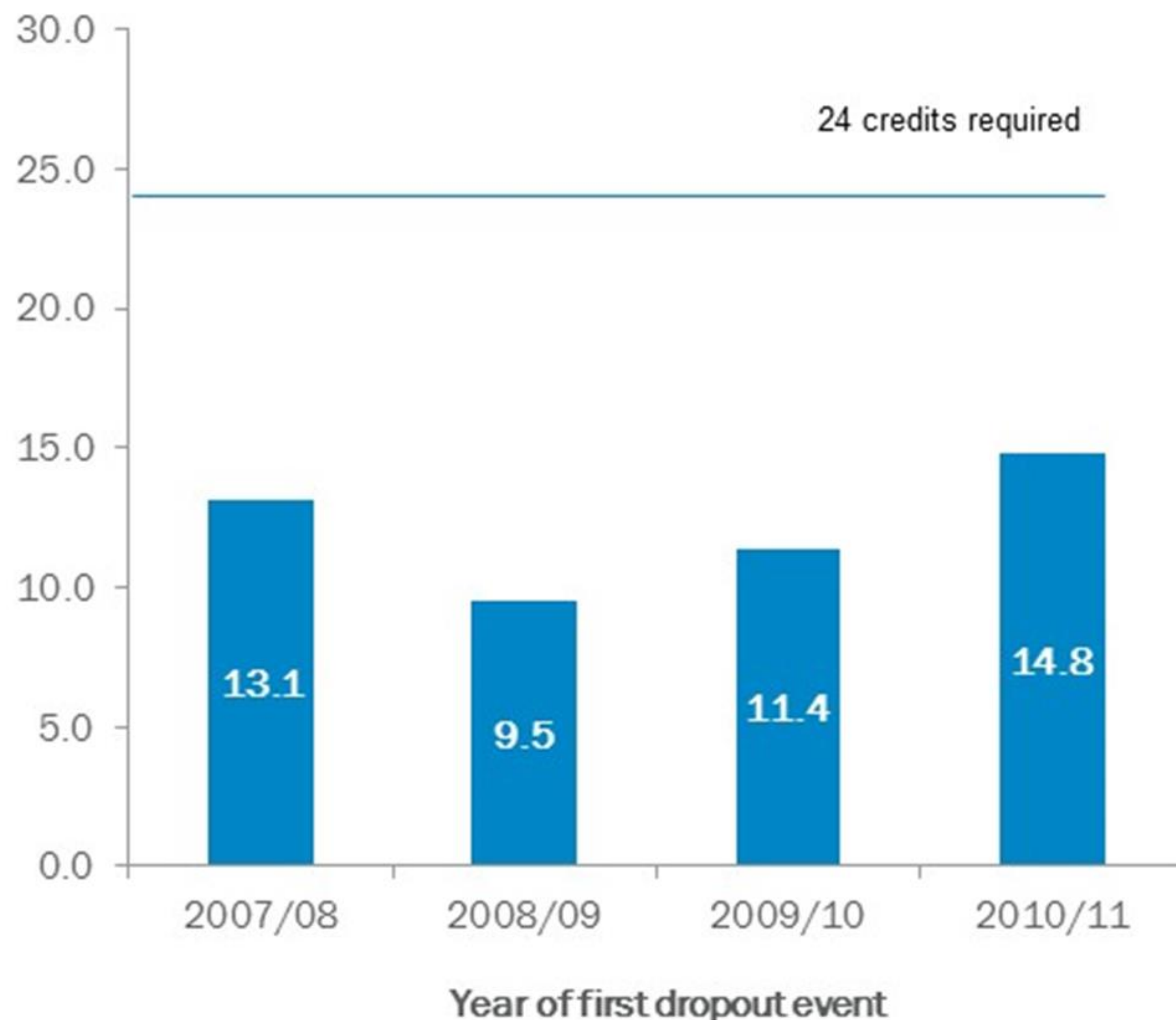# What are the Academic Outcomes before Dropping Out?

San Bernardino

➢ Before dropping out, both reenrollees and permanent dropouts were not on-track to graduate

➢ Before dropping out, reenrollees earned on average more course credits than permanent dropouts

What are the Academic Outcomes after Reenrollment?

Average number of credits accumulated over 4 years by students who dropped out and re-enrolled
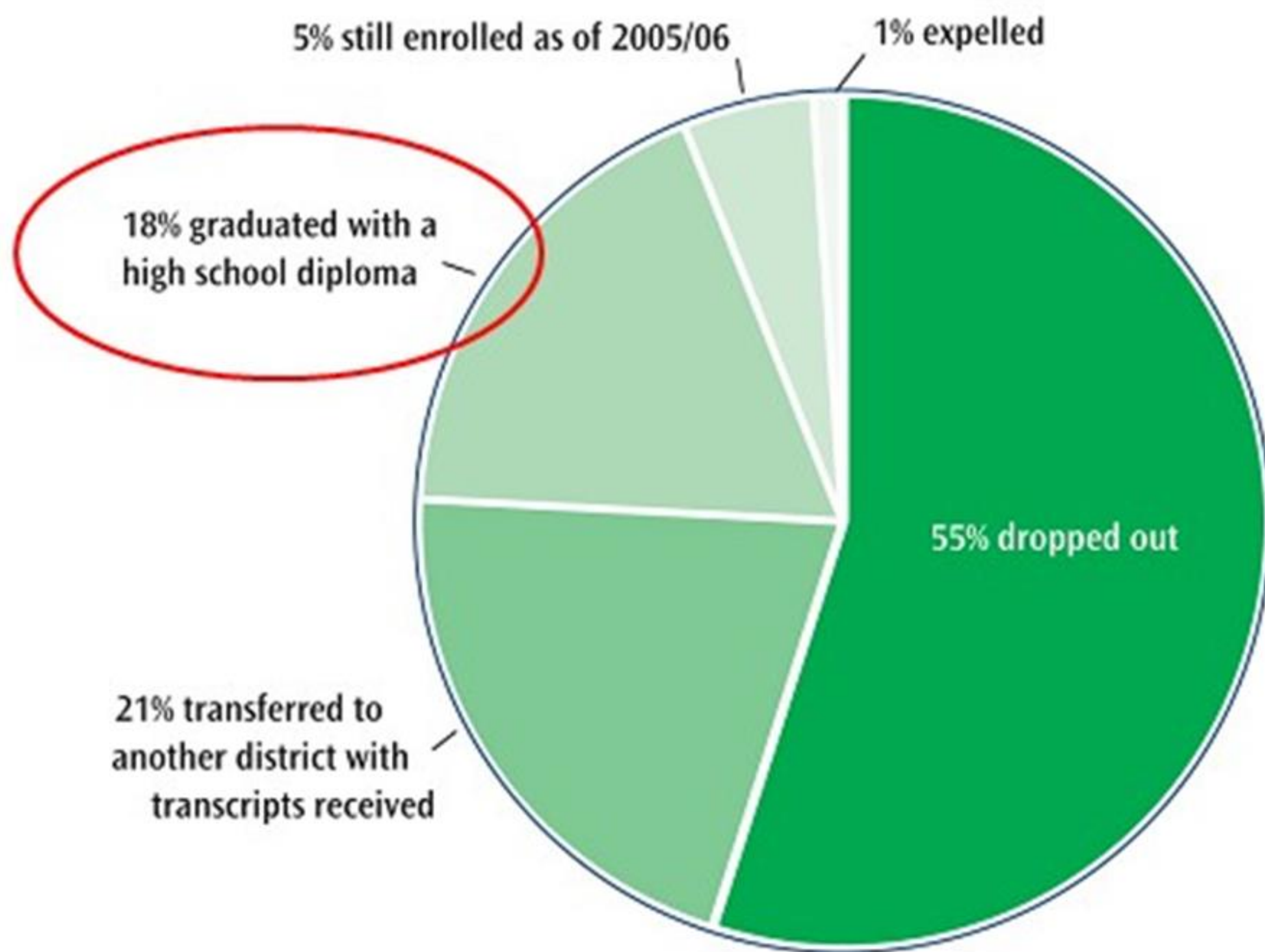

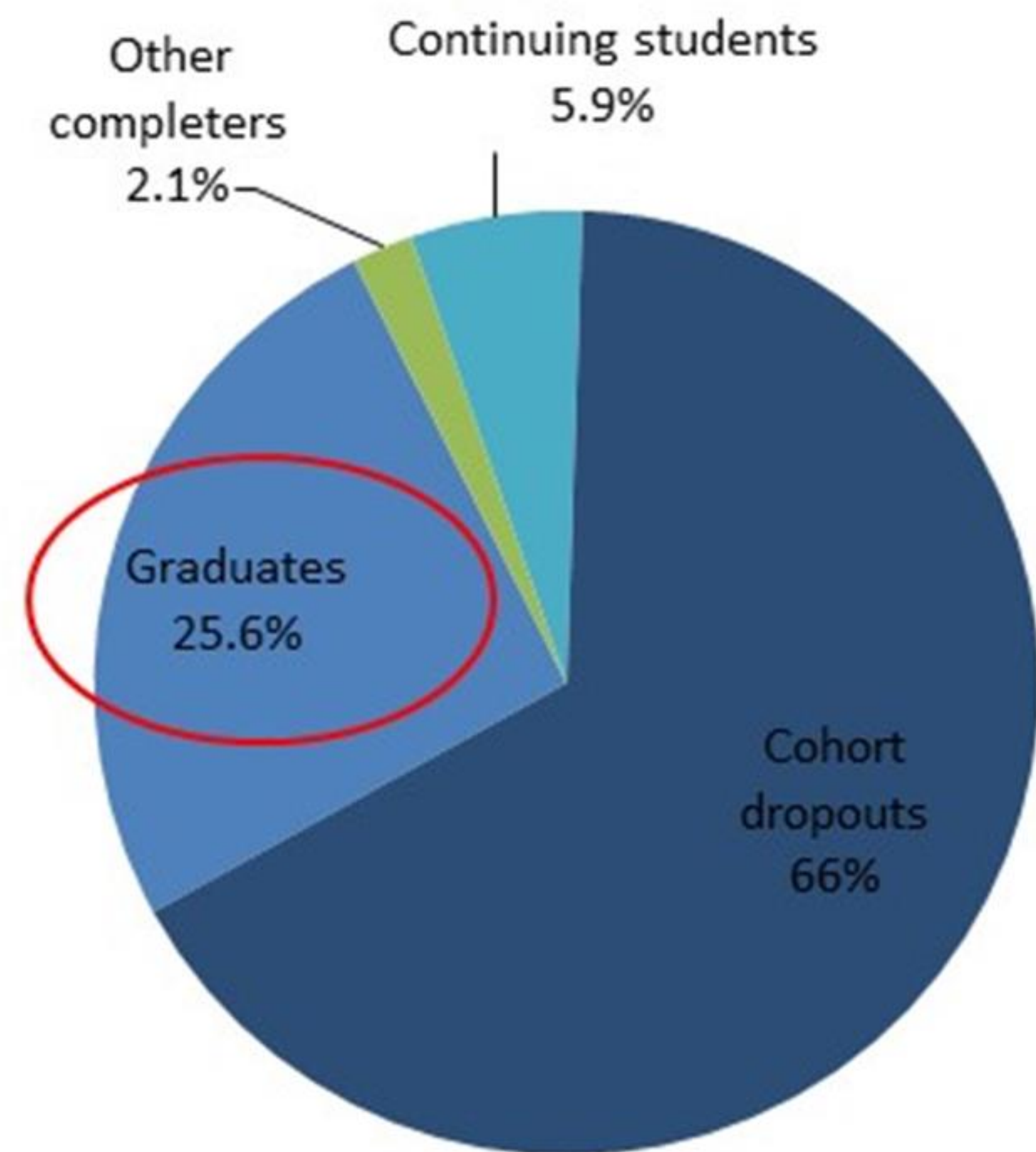24 credits required

30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0

13.1   9.5   11.4   14.8

2007/08   2008/09   2009/10   2010/11

Year of first dropout event

Utah

➤ Most reenrollees did not earn enough credits to graduate

What are the Graduation Outcomes for Reenrollees?

San Bernardino School District

5% still enrolled as of 2005/06

1% expelled

18% graduated with a high school diploma

55% dropped out

21% transferred to another district with transcripts received

Utah

Other completers 2.1%

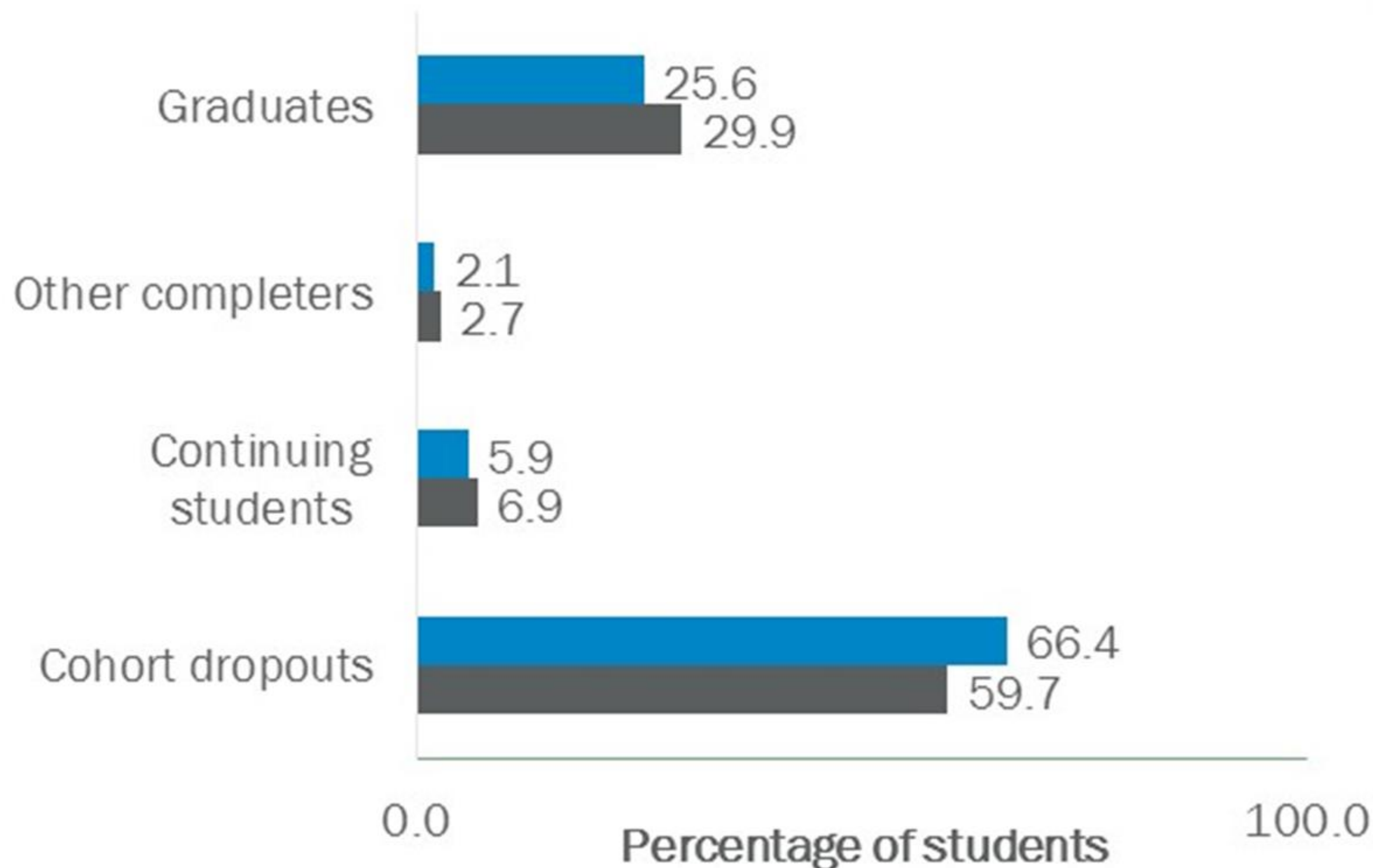Continuing students 5.9%

Graduates 25.6%

Cohort dropouts 66%

➢ Dropping out was not necessarily a permanent outcome: 1/5th to 1/4th of the reenrollees graduated from high school

What are the Graduation Outcomes for Reenrollees?

Utah

➢ Two additional years increased the graduation rate of reenrollees to 30 percent

Key Points

- Dropping out is not a final outcome: many dropouts re-enrolled into the district or state schools

- Students were late in credits when they dropped out and struggled to catch up upon reenrolling

- Most reenrollees did not graduate but about 1 in 4 did

- Extending the analysis in Utah up to 6 years of high school, 30 percent of Utah reenrollees had graduated

Questions about the presentation?

Discussion about Data Access and Use

Do you track dropouts who reenroll?

➢ If so, what do you use to track and support them and what additional information would you need?

Do you have access to past and current school records?

➢ If so, what information do you use to support reenrollees to graduation and what additional information would you need?

What are the challenges to accessing and using data?

Voices from the Field

Challenges, perspectives, and suggestions about reengagement

- Reenrollees

- Educators

Data Sources

- San Bernardino City Unified School District - research study

- Utah Dropout Prevention Alliance - statewide school support

- Washoe County School District – districtwide student voice and reengagement support

Why Students Drop Out?

• **Push out**	• **Pull out**
• Academic struggles	• "Toxic experiences"
• Boredom at school	• Need to make money
• Limited ways to make up credits	• Mental health challenges
• A diploma seemed out of reach	• Low expectations from family and peers

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Why Dropouts Return to School?

Push in	Pull in
• Under/unemployment	• Caring school staff
• Resilience and wanting a better future	• Counseling and academic supports
• Supportive adults	• Easy reenrollment
• Probation and public assistance requirements	• Alternative school and program options

School and District Leader Perspectives

Key issues:

1. Interventions: Traditional high schools often lacked credit recovery and wraparound interventions.

2. Capacity: Alternative school and program options were few and the demand was unmet.

School and District Leader Perspectives

Key issues:

3. Funding: State per-pupil funds were tied to enrollment and attendance rates.

4. Accountability: Repeated dropout events and poor attendance adversely affected school accountability outcomes.

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What's Still Needed?
Policy and Practice Suggestions

Targeting additional funds to follow reenrollees to the schools where they return

What's Still Needed?
Policy and Practice Suggestions

Increasing options for recovering/earning credits

What's Still Needed?
Policy and Practice Suggestions

Using data to flag reenrollees

What's Still Needed?
Policy and Practice Suggestions

Building alternative accountability approaches

What's Still Needed?
Policy and Practice Suggestions

Case-managing returning students

Questions about the presentation?

Discussion

What policy and practice challenges do you experience in your reengagement efforts?

What's working?

What still needs to improve?

For more information...

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Thank you.

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