

## Age of Public High School Students at Graduations

The following summary of K12 data is provided in response to the data request submitted to the South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) by the South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) Division of Child Support to inform the Commission on Child Support under Executive Order 2025-02 pursuant to Section 667 of Title IV-D and SDCL § 25-7-6.12.

### Question

- What is the count of students that graduate at age 17, 18, 19, and 20 from public schools?
- At what age do high school students graduate from K12 public schools?

### Response

The DOE maintains enrollment records for K12 public school graduates, including student date of birth and graduation date. Information for school years 2022-23 and 2023-24 was gathered to show the age of public high school students at graduation.

Below in Table 1, the requested information is provided as a count and percentage by age and school year for the readily available data.

**Table 1: Distribution of Public High School Student by Age at Graduation**

| Age          | School Year Count |              | Total Count   | School Year Percent |         | Average Percent |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|
|              | 2022-23           | 2023-24      |               | 2022-23             | 2023-24 |                 |
| 16           | 16                | 22           | 38            | 0.19%               | 0.25%   | 0.22%           |
| 17           | 1,277             | 1,552        | 2,829         | 14.84%              | 17.48%  | 16.18%          |
| 18           | 6,529             | 6,522        | 13,051        | 75.89%              | 73.45%  | 74.65%          |
| 19           | 706               | 685          | 1,391         | 8.21%               | 7.71%   | 7.96%           |
| 20           | 66                | 60           | 126           | 0.77%               | 0.68%   | 0.72%           |
| 21           | 9                 | 38           | 47            | 0.10%               | 0.43%   | 0.27%           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>8,603</b>      | <b>8,879</b> | <b>17,482</b> |                     |         |                 |

*Note(s):* Data sourced from SD Department of Education - SD-STARS.

In conclusion, the average public high school student graduates at age 18. The data indicate that

- 91% of graduates are under the age of 19,
- 99% are under the age of 20, and
- >99.5% are under the age of 21.

