

**I received data from the SDE on how many student exams were excluded from the letter grade calculation because the student was not full academic year. Epic had the highest rate (43 % combined) of all schools except alternative schools. Can you explain?**

Non Full Academic Year (NFAY) status is a designation used in school accountability reporting. This designation means that a student was not enrolled in a district for a full academic year. All students enrolling in a school after the 20th day of instruction are automatically designated NFAY per state rules.

Unlike a traditional brick and mortar school, our school and alternative schools are schools that many students transfer to, are referred to, and/or assigned to after the school year begins. Therefore, we experience enrollment increases after the start of the school year. In contrast, most traditional schools see enrollment decline or stay the same after the school year begins. That is why NFAY rates would be higher for schools like ours and alternative schools. The disparity is to be expected.

For example, take the 2017-2018 school year. There were 3,836 Epic students reported as NFAY. Of those 3,836, 3,083 (or 80.3%) enrolled after the 20th day of instruction and were automatically designated as NFAY. In regards to the remaining 20%, those were students that were enrolled prior to the 20th day of instruction but were later designated NFAY because they were withdrawn and then re-entered the school at a later date. Students and families may be withdrawn from Epic for a variety of reasons, including choosing to enroll in another public school, moving out of state, not completing enough assignments over a period of time (with the minimum number dictated by law), or electing to home school. Some students and families that are withdrawn choose to return to Epic and we continue to provide them a free and appropriate education as we do for every student that enrolls in Epic Charter Schools, but after they return by definition they are NFAY.

When it comes to truancy, EPIC is required by law to withdraw students not completing the minimum number of assignments. This is often hard for faculty to do who have gotten close to a student and are aware of life struggles a student may be experiencing. However, it is state law that students not meeting the minimum requirements have to be withdrawn and principals monitor and enforce that policy with the faculty they supervise.

**Why does Epic report nine different schools to the SDE (elementary/middle/high each for one-on-one, OKC blended and Tulsa blended)? The blended centers do not actually accept all grades, correct? Do you believe this makes it difficult for the public to determine how well Epic students are achieving? And whether one model works better than the other (virtual vs. blended)?**

The State Department of Education determined our number of site codes. We did not make that request. We actually would prefer to have fewer, but the SDE believes the number of site codes are necessary given the laws, rules and regulations governing public schools in Oklahoma, as well as public virtual charter schools. We understand and accept their interpretation of law.

**How do you ensure each curriculum Epic offers meets state standards?**

Like other public schools, EPIC teachers and students utilize a variety of tools to meet state standards. Each student's progress is closely monitored by their teacher, and curriculum is supplemented to meet the individual needs of the student and insure that state standards are taught.