Definitions for Open Data-Completion Rate

Column	Definition
[Definition of extract]	The Six-Year Completion Rate is the proportion of students who graduate with a B.C. Certificate of Graduation ("Dogwood") or B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma ("Adult Dogwood") within six years from the first time they enrol in Grade 8. The rate is adjusted for migration in and out of British Columbia. The six-year rate provides a more complete picture of the number of students who complete Grades 8 to 12. There are also additional models available for 5-, 7- and 8-year rates. The B.C. Ministry of Education uses the Six-Year Completion Rate as a benchmark of student success, and provides an annual public report of the district and provincial rates (available at **http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php**). This data set allows you to view the completion rate at both provincial and district level. Completion rates are not produced at the school level because adjustments to account for students leaving the province cannot be estimated from Ministry data. The method involves selecting a group of students, or "cohort", which includes all students who enrol in Grade 8 in Year 1, OR who arrive at a B.C. school in a higher grade during the subsequent Years 2 through 5. The "district of responsibility" is the district in which the student was last seen, either in the graduation year or in a prior year. This is the district cohort on which the Six-Year Completion Rate for districts is based. This data set also allows you to view sub-model data (to show student progress prior to the end of Year 6) and extended models (the 7- and 8-year Completion Rates, which add 1 and 2 years respectively to the standard model). To learn more about this data set, please see the supporting documents – especially **"Working with the Completion Rate extract from DataBC"** (which walks you through the steps involved) and **"A Friendly Guide to the Completion Rate"** (which provides more details on the Completion Rate and how it works).

Column	Definition
YEAR_6_OF_COHORT	Use this field to select the final school year (or "last year of the cohort") in the six-year period for the cohort of interest. Each of the 8 available models (which you select using COMPLETION_RATE_MODEL) is based on the 6-year window of the six-year completion rate. Therefore, this field is used to designate those students (cohort members) who were in Grade 8 for the first time six years previously. When you set this column to a particular year, the resulting rows all refer to the same cohort of students in their Year 6. In other words, YEAR_6_OF_COHORT is used to look at the entire cohort of students who were deemed to have entered Grade 8 for the first time 5 years prior to the selected year. This means that when you want to use the six-year completion rate model - the usual model for most Ministry calculations - you simply set YEAR_6_OF_COHORT to the sixth and final year of that cohort. However, you must adjust the year to account for any offset between the actual year of interest and Year 6 of the cohort. If you want to see the six-year completion rate for 2014/2015, you must set this column to '2014/2015' and set the COMPLETION_RATE_MODEL column to 'SIX YEAR DOGWOOD COMPLETION RATE'. The following example looks at how this works with various models. When you select '2010/2011', all the students in the cohort are deemed to have entered Grade 8 for the first time in 2005/2006. Therefore, when YEAR_6_OF_COHORT = '2010/2011': • The 6-year "standard" completion rate model refers to students whose Year 6 is 2010/2011. • The 7-year extended model - *which is still labelled 2010/2011* - allows the cohort 1 extra year to complete (by the end of 2011/2012). • The 8-year extended model - *which is still labelled 2010/2011* - allows the cohort 2 extra years to complete (by the end of 2012/2013). • The 5-year sub-model - *which is still labelled 2010/2011* - refers to the students in that cohort who completed by the end of their Year 5 (by the end of 2009/2010). **See the field COMPLETION_RATE_MODEL for a description of how this works with the progress sub-models.** For the Completion Rate, the school year runs from September to August. In this data set, the available values start with school year 1997/1998.
DATA_LEVEL	You use this column to set either a district-level or province-level completion rate. (There is no such thing as a school-level completion rate.) The available values are 'DISTRICT LEVEL' and 'PROVINCE LEVEL'.

Column	Definition
SUB_POPULATION	You use this column to select a subset of the student population. If you want to see how all students in the cohort performed, set this column to 'ALL STUDENTS'. Many of these values are binary; in other words, they are mutually exclusive. The binary pairs are 'ABORIGINAL' and 'NON ABORIGINAL'; 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER' and 'NON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER'; 'FEMALE' and 'MALE'. 'SPECIAL NEEDS NO GIFTED' is a roll-up of the Special Needs categories Sensory Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and Behaviour Disabilities. These groupings reflect those students who are working towards a certificate of graduation and for whom the Ministry's student achievement measures are most meaningful. (The name is somewhat misleading at first glance: it is NOT equivalent to "all Special Needs categories except for Gifted".) Values: 'ABORIGINAL' 'ALL STUDENTS' 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER' 'FEMALE' 'MALE' 'NON ABORIGINAL' 'NON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER' 'SPECIAL NEEDS NO GIFTED'
PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT	You use this column, when looking at a province-level completion rate, to decide whether to include public schools, independent schools, or both school types. Values: 'BC Independent School' 'BC Public School' 'PROVINCE - Total' (= a rollup of both school types)

Column	Definition
DISTRICT_NUMBER	You use this field, when looking at a district-level completion rate, to select the number of the school district.

The school district is based on the school of the September enrolment with the highest FTE (full-time equivalent) count for the students (cohort members) in the last reported year in the model. This is known as the "district of attribution".

Because this value is a 3-digit string, it will always begin with at least one zero (0).

For the actual name of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NAME.

In this data set, this column contains 60 values numbered from '005' through '093', as well as a null value (which appears as a blank cell in Excel). If you want to get the provincial completion rate, leave this column unselected. |
| DISTRICT_NAME | You use this field, when looking at a district-level completion rate, to select the name of the school district.

The school district is based on the school of the September enrolment with the highest FTE (full-time equivalent) count for the students (cohort members) in the last reported year in the model. This is known as the "district of attribution".

In this data set, this column contains 60 values from 'Abbotsford' through 'West Vancouver', as well as a null value (which appears as a blank cell in Excel). If you want to get the provincial completion rate, leave this column unselected.

For the number of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NUMBER. |

Column	Definition
FACILITY_TYPE	The school facility type. This is based upon the type of program offered and the way in which it is delivered. In the completion rate data set, it is based on the school of the September enrolment with the highest FTE (full-time equivalent) count for the students (cohort members) in the last reported year in the model. This column contains 2 values: 'ALL FACILITY TYPES' and 'STANDARD': • 'STANDARD' includes the public and independent standard school facility type (00) as defined in Form 1601. It is sometimes referred to as "bricks-and-mortar". • 'ALL FACILITY TYPES' captures all possible facility types, including 'STANDARD'. (Note that offshore schools are excluded from the Completion Rate.) Other facility types are not included as separate values. This is because their numbers are so small, the reliability of an estimate based on those types would be questionable. For independent schools, the 'All FACILITY TYPES' value includes 2 facility types: standard schools ('STANDARD') and Distributed Learning schools. For more information on the different facility types, see the online glossary entry: **http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/glossary.php?initLetter=All#facility_type**

Column	Definition
COMPLETION_RATE_MODEL	The particular model for the completion rate. Here, a "model" is a set of parameters (common characteristics) for the student cohort you want to look at. There are 8 models in total. For example, when you set this column to 'SIX YEAR DOGWOOD COMPLETION RATE', you are selecting the six-year completion rate, defined as the cohort of students who obtained their Dogwood diploma within 6 years of entering Grade 8 for the first time. This is the B.C. Ministry of Education's standard completion-rate model for reporting purposes. While most students will complete high school within the expected five-year period, a number of students will take longer to complete their Dogwood (e.g., students who take a year off to play sports or study abroad, or those who require an additional year to successfully finish one or two required courses). *Sub-models* are used to look at the progress of students in the cohort before the sixth year of the cohort (the final year according to the standard model), while the *extended* models add on 1 or 2 years to allow for the inclusion of later completers. The *progress* (2-, 3-, 4- and 5-year) sub-models are used to look at the progress of students in the cohort in the years before the sixth year of the cohort. The graduation 5-year sub-model looks at the students' completion status within 5 years, while the graduation 7- and 8-year extended models look at the students' completion status within 1 or 2 years after the sixth year of the cohort. Values: 'GRAD_5_YEAR SUB_MODEL' (= out of the original cohort, this is the proportion who obtained Dogwood within 5 years of entering Grade 8 for the first time) 'GRAD_7_YEAR EXTENDED_MODEL' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who obtained Dogwood within 7 years of entering Grade 8 for the first time) 'GRAD_8_YEAR EXTENDED_MODEL' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who obtained Dogwood within 8 years of entering Grade 8 for the first time) 'PROG_2_YEAR SUB_MODEL' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who entered Grade 9 or higher by Year 3) 'PROG_3_YEAR SUB_MODEL' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who entered Grade 10 or higher by Year 4) 'PROG_4_YEAR SUB_MODEL' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who entered Grade 11 or higher by Year 5) 'PROG_5_YEAR SUB_MODEL'' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who entered Grade 12 by Year 6) 'SIX YEAR DOGWOOD COMPLETION RATE' (= of the original cohort, the proportion who obtained Dogwood within 6 years of entering Grade 8 for the first time)

Column	Definition
MODEL_TYPE	This column displays 2 values, 'DYNAMIC MODEL' and 'STATIC MODEL'. These depend on the completion rate model, sub-model, or extended model that you selected. • 'STATIC MODEL' describes all models except the 7- and 8-year extended models. This static mode type uses the information available at the time of the final year of the 6-year cohort. In other words, it is not backdated as new graduation data becomes available. • 'DYNAMIC MODEL' describes only the 7- and 8-year extended models. This model type is called "dynamic" because it rolls in additional completion information that became available only after Year 6 of the cohort ended. It includes students who graduated in the 7th or 8th year (from the year they entered Grade 8 for the first time).
COHORT_COUNT	The number of students in the cohort, based on the criteria you selected in the other columns. In the completion rate calculation, each cohort is a group of students who are deemed to have started Grade 8 in the same year. Where there are fewer than 10 students in the cohort, the count is "masked" (suppressed) to protect privacy, and the value 'MSK' is displayed.
SUCCESS_COUNT	"Success" is defined differently depending on whether you have selected a completion rate model or a progress sub-model. • For calculations of the various completion rate models (5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-year), SUCCESS_COUNT = the number of students in the cohort who obtained their secondary school graduation diploma (Dogwood or Adult Dogwood) within the period indicated by the selected model. • For calculations of the various *progress sub-models* (2-, 3-, 4- and 5-year), SUCCESS_COUNT = the number of students in the cohort who achieved the grade level within the specified amount of time. Where the count of successful students is based on a total COHORT_COUNT population of 9 or fewer, the count is "masked" (suppressed) to protect privacy, and the value 'MSK' is displayed.

Column	Definition
ESTIMATED_OUTMIGRANTS	The estimated number of students in the cohort who are deemed to have left British Columbia at some point during the cohort window, and remained out of British Columbia by the end of that window. This is calculated to one percentage point. Where the estimated count of outmigrants is based on a total COHORT_COUNT population of 9 or fewer, the count is "masked" (suppressed) to protect privacy, and the value 'MSK' is displayed. Note: The completion rate is adjusted to compensate for the likelihood of outmigrants. Therefore, the rate is an estimate, rather than a measure of actual individuals. This is because we cannot always know whether the students who disappeared from their cohort before completing Grade 12 (a) left school but remained in British Columbia, or (b) moved out of the province. Therefore, we use an estimate - based on a proxy group of elementary school students - to assess the likely number of students who left the province, and whose ultimate completion success is not known. This estimate is used to adjust the completion rate so that these students are not reported as having failed to complete.
ESTIMATED_COMPLETION_RATE	The estimated percent of students within the cohort who were successful, out of the total number of students in their cohort, after adjusting for students who migrated out of British Columbia. Where the estimated completion rate is based on a total COHORT_COUNT population of 9 or fewer, the percent is masked (suppressed to protect privacy) and the value 'MSK' is displayed. • "Success" for the 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-year completion rate models means that the students obtained their secondary school graduation diploma (Dogwood or Adult Dogwood), • "Success" for the progress sub-models means that the students achieved the grade level within the specified amount of time. The formula for this column is: SUCCESS_COUNT/(COHORT_COUNT - ESTIMATED_OUTMIGRANTS).