

Transition Rates

Transitions from Grade 8 through to Grade 10 are very important for several reasons. Chief among those reasons is that they mark the move from elementary school to high school.

Transition rates are measured by tracking the individual students in the Grade 8 cohort in any given year through to their Grade 10 year both for individual school divisions and for the province overall. Then, a student is noted as having transitioned from one grade to the next if he or she has registered at a school in the province for the subsequent school year.

When analyzing transition rates, however, one must take into account students' families' own transitions and the fact that, for many reasons, families sometimes move from one to another both within the province and outside the province. Consequently, provincial statistics tend to appear somewhat more stable than do those for individual school divisions because students can be included in the cohort regardless of the particular school division in which they may enrol, whereas, students in individual school divisions are not counted as having transitioned from one grade to the next if they do not register in a school in that division for the next school year.

Based on the most recent data provided by the Ministry of Education, schools' efforts to support students' smooth grade-to-grade transitions appear to be having a positive effect. Over the course of the last three years, we have seen a steady improvement in the percentage of students who successfully make the transition from Grade 8 to 9 and from Grade 9 to 10 in Saskatoon Public Schools' collegiates (see Table below).

For example, there were 1539 Grade 8 students in Saskatoon Public Schools in 2005, of those students, 91.4% (1407) successfully made the transition to Grade 9 and 92.7% (1305) successfully made the transition to Grade 10. In comparison, 91.6% (1238) of the 2006-07 Grade 8 group successfully made the Grade 8 to 9 transition and 97.3% (1204) made the Grade 9 to 10 transition within Saskatoon Public Schools. Finally, 88.9% (1204) of the 2008-09 Grade 8 group successfully made the Grade 8 to 9 transition and 96.8% (1166) made the Grade 9 to 10 transition within Saskatoon Public Schools.

Looked at another way, we are seeing a positive overall trend in terms of students' successful transitions – especially in the percentage of students who make the transition from Grade 9 to 10. Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, there was approximately a 4% improvement in the percentage of students who make the Grade 9 to 10 transition (Please note: the students who are counted as not having made these transitions have either moved to a different school division in the province or have chosen to leave school – those students who move to another province or out of the country are not counted for the purposes of these calculations).

| Transition of the students in Grade 7 to any school in the province | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| Grade Level | School Year | | | | | | | |
| | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
| | SPS | Other SD | SPS | Other SD | SPS | Other SD | SPS | Other SD |
| Grade 7 Cohort | 1,436 | 4 | 1 | | | | | |
| Grade 8 | | 1,351 | 73 | 6 | 6 | 1 | | |
| Grade 9 | | | | 1,238 | 148 | 20 | 32 | |
| Grade 10 | | | | | | 1,204 | 147 | |
| Total | 1436 | 1355 | 74 | 1244 | 154 | 1225 | 179 | |
| % of cohort | | 94.4% | 5.2% | 86.6% | 10.7% | 85.3% | 12.5% | |
| | | 1429 | 1429 | 1398 | 1398 | 1404 | 1404 | |