

*U. S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education/Federal TRIO Programs  
Policies and Procedures for Prior Experience (PE) Assessments  
Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program  
2011-2016 Grant Cycle*

**Brief summary of policies and procedures for assessing prior experience (PE) points**

- The PE assessment years are 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15.
- The calculation of PE points for the three assessment years is based on:
  - A project's approved number of participants to be served;
  - A project's approved objectives; and
  - The data a project submits in its annual performance report (APR) for each assessment year.
- For the 2011-16 grant cycle, a project may only earn up to a total of 15 points. The final PE score is the average of the scores for the three years assessed (see 34 CFR 644.20(a)(2)).
- **A project that served less than 90 percent of the number of students the project was funded to serve in the assessment year is not eligible to earn points for any of the PE criteria in the assessment year (see 34 CFR 644.22(b)).**
  - To determine if a project has served at least 90 percent of the approved number of student to be served, standard rounding rules are applied; if the calculated Number Served rate is between 89.5 and 89.9 percent, it is rounded up to 90%.
  - To earn PE points for the Funded Number criterion, a project must serve at least the number funded to serve.
- An EOC project funded in the current grant cycle (2011-16) that submits the APR for each of the assessment years is eligible to earn PE points for the following PE criteria: **Funded Number; Secondary School Diploma; Financial Aid Applications; Postsecondary Education Admissions; and Postsecondary Education Enrollment.**
- PE points are awarded based on meeting or exceeding the approved objectives. No partial credit is given. If the calculated rate for the PE criterion (i.e., actual rate) is greater than or equal to the approved rate, PE points are awarded. Standard rounding rules are used (e.g., 79.6% rounds to 80%) for the Secondary School Diploma; Financial Aid Applications; Postsecondary Education Admissions; and Postsecondary Education Enrollment objectives.
- A project that does not submit an APR in the assessment year (i.e., 2012-13) is not eligible to earn any PE points for that assessment year.
- **The Department will not accept any changes to the project's APR data (or recalculate its PE points) once the APR has been submitted for the assessment year.** If other information such as audit reports, site visit reports, and project evaluation reports indicates that the APR data used to calculate PE points are incorrect, the Department may decide to adjust the PE scores or not to award PE points (see 34 CFR 644.22(a)(3)).

The formulae for calculating PE are provided below.

### ***How is the Funded Number Criterion Calculated?***

PE points are awarded based on the project having served the approved number of participants for the reporting year. The actual number of participants served must be equal to or greater than the number of participants the project was funded to serve.

The calculation rule for the Funded Number criterion is as follows:

- The total number of participants assisted (Section II, Field A3 of the APR) is compared to the number of participants the project was funded to serve (from the project's approved objectives; pre-populated at the beginning of Section II).

### ***How is the Secondary School Diploma Rate Calculated?***

Secondary school diploma is defined as the percentage of participants who did not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent at time of first service in the project year who received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent during the project year.

The calculation rules for the school diploma rate are as follows:

- The **denominator** is the number of participants who did not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent at the time of first service in the reporting year project year (sum of Section III A1, A2, A5, B1, B2, B3, and B4) minus the deceased.
- The **numerator** is the number of participants in the denominator who received a secondary school diploma or equivalent during the project year (Section IV A1).

### ***How is the Financial Aid Applications Rate Calculated?***

Financial aid application is defined as the percentage of participants, who at the time of first service in the project year were not already enrolled in a postsecondary education program and who: 1) were high school seniors or equivalents in alternative education programs; 2) were high school graduates; or 3) had obtained a high school equivalency certificate, applied for financial aid during the project year.

The calculation rules for the financial aid application rate are as follows:

- The **denominator** is the number of participants, at the time first service in the reporting period, who are not enrolled in postsecondary education, and who are high school seniors or equivalents in alternative programs or who have a secondary diploma or equivalent (Section III, A1, A3, A4, A6, and B2).
- The **numerator** is the number of participants in the denominator who applied for financial aid during the project year (Section IV, B1).

### ***How is the Postsecondary Education Admissions Rate Calculated?***

Postsecondary education admissions is defined as the percentage of participants, who at the time of first service in the project year were not already enrolled in a postsecondary education program and who: 1) were high school seniors or equivalents in alternative education programs; 2) were high school graduates; or 3) had obtained a high school equivalency certificate, applied for postsecondary admission during the project year.

The calculation rules for the postsecondary education admissions rate are as follows:

- The **denominator** is the number of participants, who at time the first time of service in the reporting period, are not enrolled in postsecondary education, and who are high school seniors or equivalents in alternative programs or who have a secondary diploma or equivalent (Section III, A1, A3, A4, A6, and B2).
- The **numerator** is the number of participants in the denominator who applied for admission to a postsecondary education program (Section IV, C1).

### ***How is the Postsecondary Education Enrollment Rate Calculated?***

Postsecondary education enrollment is defined as the percentage of secondary school graduates (or equivalents), who were not already enrolled in a postsecondary education at time of first service in the project year, enrolled in a postsecondary education program during each project year (or by the end of the next fall term), or received notification by the fall term of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic term (e.g., spring term).

A project's PE points are calculated based on one of two different interpretations as to what constitutes the denominator and numerator for this objective. In submitting the 2011-12 APR, each EOC project indicated which of the following interpretations (options) would be used to calculate its PE points for the 2011-16 grant cycle. To maintain consistency in the PE calculations across all PE assessment years, a grantee cannot change the interpretation (option) selected in the 2011-12 APR.

The calculation rules for the postsecondary enrollment rate are as follows:

- **Option 1:** The **denominator** for this objective includes participants that received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent during the reporting year (Section IV, A1). The **numerator** is the number of participants in the denominator who received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent during the reporting year and enrolled in a postsecondary education program (Section IV, D1).
- **Option 2:** The **denominator** for this objective includes participants that received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent during the reporting year (Section IV, A1) and those participants who had a secondary school diploma or credential at the time of first service (Section III, A3, A4, A6 minus deceased reported in Section IV, D4) during the reporting year. The **numerator** is the number of participants in the denominator who received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent during the reporting year and enrolled in a postsecondary education program (Section IV, D1) **and** the number of participants who already had a secondary school diploma or credentials at the time of first service and enrolled in a postsecondary education program (IV, D2).

Note: Because Section IV, A5 identified deceased participants, IV, A1 does not include such students; therefore, the calculation for Option 1 does not involve subtracting deceased participants from the denominator. On the other hand, Section IIIA does not identify deceased participants; therefore, in the calculation for Option 2, deceased participants in IV, D4 are subtracted from the denominator.