

# **TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Performance & Efficiency Measure Results: 2006-07**

## **Background**

The 2006-07 performance and efficiency measure results for the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program portray measurable educational outcomes for the projects funded by the program. The following provides an introduction and description of the methodology and terms used to calculate and analyze the outcomes: persistence, graduation and efficiency. The tables provide the actual data and results of the analyses for each grantee. The analyses are based on self-reported data in Annual Performance Reports (APRs), and are not the result of a rigorous, independent evaluation of the SSS program.

## **Introduction**

The Department is committed to continually improving its management of programs and improving the educational outcomes of students. Improvements are guided by monitoring and assessing performance, improving the data used for these assessments, collaborating with stakeholders, implementing recommendations, and re-assessing performance. Providing data to the public is a key element in promoting improvement and collaborating with stakeholders.

The performance measures for SSS projects are based on a cohort of full-time, freshman participants who enrolled at each grantee institution in a particular year and are:

- the persistence (retention) rate – the percentage of full-time freshman SSS participants still enrolled at the same institution at the beginning of the next academic year, graduated with a bachelor’s degree (4-year institutions) or graduated with an associate’s degree and/or transferred from a two-year to four-year institution (2-year institutions), and
- the graduation (completion) rate – the percentage of full-time freshman SSS participants who graduated and/or transferred within three years (2-year institutions); or graduated within six years (at 4-year institutions).

The efficiency measure is the gap or difference between the cost per participant who received SSS services in a particular year and who persisted in postsecondary education, graduated with a postsecondary degree, and/or transferred to another institution in that same year (*successful outcomes*) and the cost per participant who received SSS services in that particular year.

For additional information regarding how the persistence, graduation, and efficiency measure results were calculated, please refer to the *Methodology* section.

## **Selected Findings**

- *Persistence*

- Of the 953 projects that were funded in 2006-07, 924 projects provided data that resulted in the calculation of the persistence rate. (*See Limitation of Data and Findings for a more detailed explanation.*)
- The overall persistence rate (81.9 percent) for those projects for which a rate was calculated exceeded the Department's goal of 73 percent. (*See Table 1b.*)
- Of the 924 projects for which a rate was calculated, forty-eight (48) percent were four-year institutions and fifty-two (52) percent were two-year institutions.
- Overall, the rate of persistence at four-year institutions was slightly higher (83.2 percent) than at two-institutions (80.6 percent).
- Seventy-six (76) percent of all SSS projects for which a rate was calculated had persistence rates of 73 percent or higher (i.e., at or above the Department's targeted goal).
- Of the 73 percent of projects with persistence rates of 73 percent or higher, forty-seven (47) percent were four-year institutions and fifty-three (53) percent were two-year institutions.

➤ ***Six-Year Graduation Rates (4-year institutions)***

- Of the 467 projects at four-year institutions that were funded in 2006-07, 391 projects provided data that resulted in the calculation of the six-year graduation rate. (*See Limitation of Data and Findings for a more detailed explanation.*)
- Of the 391 projects for which a rate was calculated, 28 percent were private-institutions while 72 percent were public institutions.
- The overall grantee-level six-year graduation rate (32.6 percent) for those projects for which a rate was calculated exceeded the Department's goal (29 percent). (*See Table 3.*)
- Over half (57 percent) of all SSS projects for which a rate was calculated had graduation rates of 29 percent or higher (i.e., at or above the Department's targeted goal).

➤ ***Three-Year Graduation/Transfer Rates (2-year institutions)***

- Of the 486 projects at two-year institutions that were funded in 2006-07, 411 projects provided data that resulted in the calculation of the graduation/transfer rate. (*See Limitation of Data and Findings for a more detailed explanation.*)
- Of the 411 projects for which a rate was calculated, two percent were private-institutions while 98 percent were public institutions.
- The overall grantee-level three-year graduation rate (26.8 percent) for those projects for which a rate was calculated did not exceed the Department's goal (27.5 percent). (*See Table 4.*)
- Forty-one percent (41 percent) of all SSS projects for which a rate was calculated had graduation/transfer rates of 27.5 percent or higher (i.e., at or above the Department's targeted goal).
- Of the 41 percent of projects with graduation rates of 27.5 percent or higher, there was similar representation among public and private institutions.

➤ *Efficiency Measures*

- Of the 953 projects that were funded in 2006-07, 951 projects provided data that resulted in the calculation of the efficiency measure. (*See Limitation of Data and Findings for a more detailed explanation.*)
- The overall efficiency measure (\$214) for those projects whose efficiency measure was calculated slightly increased in comparison to the 2005-06 overall efficiency measure (\$209) reported at (*See Table 5.*)
- Of the 951 projects for which a rate was calculated, there was a nearly even distribution among two-year (51 percent) and four-year (49 percent) institutions.
- Overall, the cost per successful outcome (efficiency measure) at two-year institutions was more than double that at four-year institutions, \$301 vs. \$144, respectively.

## **Limitation of Data and Findings**

➤ *Persistence Rate*

- A total of 953 SSS projects were funded in 2006-07.
- Twenty-six (26) projects or three percent of the projects did not serve any full-time freshmen in the year the cohort was established (i.e., 2006-07); therefore, a persistence rate could not be calculated.
- Two (2) projects or less than one percent did not submit an APR in 2006-07; therefore, a persistence rate could not be calculated.
- One (1) project served only upperclassmen participants; therefore, the persistence rate could not be calculated since the cohort is based on full-time freshmen.

➤ *Six-Year Graduation Rates (4-year institutions)*

- Twenty-six (26) projects or six percent were funded for the first time in the 2005-06 project year; therefore, a bachelor's degree completion rate could not be calculated since these projects were not in operation during the year in which the cohort was established (i.e., 2001-02).
- Forty-six (46) projects or ten percent did not report serving any full-time freshmen participants in the year the cohort was established; therefore, the graduation rate could not be calculated.
- Three (3) projects did not submit an APR in 2001-02; therefore, the graduation rate could not be calculated because the cohort could not be established.
- One (1) project served only upperclassmen participants; therefore, the graduation rate could not be calculated since the cohort is based on full-time freshmen.

➤ *Three-Year Graduation/Transfer Rates (2-year institutions)*

- Fifty-two (52) projects or eleven percent were funded for the first time in the 2005-06 project year; therefore, an associate's degree and/or transfer completion rate could not be calculated since these projects were not in operation during the year in which the cohort was established (i.e., 2004-05).
- Twenty-two (22) projects or six percent did not report serving any full-time freshmen participants in the year the cohort was established (i.e., 2004-05); therefore, the graduation/transfer rate could not be calculated.
- One (1) project did not submit an APR in 2006-07; therefore, the graduation/transfer rate could not be calculated because only two years worth of data was available and the rate is based on a three-year time-span.

In addition, incomplete data in any of the data fields used to determine the cohort such as college grade level and enrollment status could distort the calculated rate.

➤ *Efficiency Measures*

- Three (2) projects did not submit an APR in 2006-07; therefore, an efficiency measure could not be calculated for these projects.

## Methodology

➤ *Student Cohort for Persistence, Graduation and/or Transfer Rates:*

- Comprised of participants who are freshmen, enrolled full-time, and received SSS services for the first time during a designated year (i.e., new participants).<sup>1</sup>

➤ *Persistence Rate Calculation*

- Beginning in 2006-07, persistence rates were calculated using a new method which drew entirely from each cohort year's APR data and was based on APR fields #15 (PartCD), #17 (EnrollCD), #19 (CurrentGradeLV), #20 (PersGradStatus), #21 (CurPerstStatus/CurEnrlStat), #23 (Transfers), and #27 (DegreeCD).
  - ✓ The numerator consists of the number of participants who were enrolled in the fall of the 2007-08 academic year, graduated with a bachelor's degree by the end of the 2006-07 academic year, or graduated with an associate's degree and/or transferred from a two-year to a four-year institution by the end of the 2006-07 academic year.
  - ✓ The denominator consists of the number of full-time freshman participants served by the SSS project in 2006-07.<sup>2</sup>

➤ *Six-Year Graduation Rates (four-year institutions)*

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note that this definition of the cohort for the program performance measures is different from the participants included in the cohort for the objectives used for the assessment of a grantee's prior experience. For the prior experience objectives, the cohort consists of all participants served by a project for the first time in the designated year.

<sup>2</sup> Only data from the 2006-07 annual performance report was used.

- Divide the number of full-time freshman students who were served by the SSS project in 2001-02 and who graduated with a bachelor's degree from the grantee institution before or during the 2006-07 academic year (numerator) by the number of full-time freshman students served by the SSS project in 2001-02 (denominator).<sup>3</sup>
- ***Three-Year Graduation and/or Transfer Rates (two-year institutions)***
  - Divide the sum of the number of full-time freshman students who were served by the SSS project in 2004-05 and who graduated with an associate's degree from the grantee institution and/or transferred to a four-year institution by 2006-07 (numerator) by the number of full-time freshman students served by the SSS project in 2004-05 (denominator).<sup>4</sup>
- ***Efficiency Measures***
  - The efficiency measure is calculated among new, continuing, new summer session, and reentry participants who received project services in the reporting year, and is based on annual funding per successful outcome.
  - SSS efficiency is measured according to the cost per successful outcome in the reporting year, derived by dividing the annual appropriation by the number of participants completing, transferring, or persisting at the same institution during the reporting year.
  - The cost per participant served is derived by dividing the annual appropriations by the number of participants served.
  - The efficiency gap is then the difference between the cost per successful outcome and cost per participant served.
  - For the 2006-07 efficiency measure calculations, only projects who did not submit an APR were excluded from the results. By contrast, the 2005-06 efficiency measure calculations excluded projects that were unable to report the academic outcomes of more than 15 percent of the participants who were served by the SSS project in 2005-06 and the results were adjusted for those participants in 2005-06 year for which the project did not report academic outcomes.

---

<sup>3</sup> Data from the 2001-02 APR were used to establish the cohort of full-time first-year participants. APR data on degree completion for six years (2001-02; 2002-03; 2003-04; 2004-05; 2005-06; and 2006-07) was used to determine the number of the 2001-02 full-time freshmen who received a bachelor's degree from the grantee institution by 2006-07.

<sup>4</sup> Data from the 2004-05 APR was used to establish the cohort of full-time freshman students. APR data on degree completion and/or transfers for three years (2004-05; 2005-06; and 2006-07) was used to determine the number of the 2004-05 full-time freshmen who received an associate's degree from the grantee institution and/or transferred from the grantee institution to a four-year institution by 2006-07.