

**Connecticut Post-School Outcomes Survey:
2007 Exiters of Special Education Services**

Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indicator 14 of the State Performance Plan (SPP) requires the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to gather data regarding the:

Percent of youth who had IEP's, are no longer in secondary school and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school.

In 2007, 4,146 students exited special education services in local education agencies (LEAs) across Connecticut for one of the following reasons: graduated with a standard diploma; obtained a certificate of completion; reached maximum age of eligibility for special education services; or dropped out of high school.

Beginning in May 2008, 4,145 of these special education exiters were mailed a survey sponsored by the CSDE to obtain follow-up information on post-school outcomes. The survey included items in three broad categories: Employment Status; Postsecondary Education and Training Status; and Additional Information.

Although this survey has been used with previous cohorts of special education exiters, this is the first year that the survey was mailed within one year of the exiters leaving high school. Prior surveys had been conducted with special education exiters two years after their exit from high school.

Two waves of mailings were conducted and school personnel from five LEAs attempted individual follow-ups with non-responders to these two waves. In total, 828 responses were received with valid responses. Twenty seven surveys were returned but not useable (surveys returned blank, $n = 5$; surveys returned with a note indicating that

the person did not wish to complete the survey, $n = 22$). This brought the total of valid responses to 801. Additionally, a total of 525 envelopes with surveys were returned as undeliverable, due to incorrect or outdated address information. When the total sample size was adjusted for these surveys, the response rate was 22%. This figure is identical to the response rate from the Post-School Outcomes Survey conducted in 2007.

Respondent Characteristics

The largest group of respondents was those with learning disabilities (42%), followed by those with other health impairment (19%), those with emotional disturbance (11%), those with intellectual disabilities (8%), those with speech and language disorders (8%) and those with autism (5%). Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the respondents were males. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the respondents were white, followed by respondents who were black (10%) and Hispanic (9%). Ninety percent (90%) of the respondents graduated with a standard diploma, followed by those who dropped out of school (5%) and those who reached the maximum age for services (4%).

Indicator 14 Data

To determine the percentages of respondents employed and/or enrolled in postsecondary education, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires use of the following formula: total number of respondents indicating employment or enrollment in postsecondary education / total number of completed surveys. To be considered a completed survey for the OSEP formula, the respondent must answer the question related to employment and/or the question related to postsecondary enrollment. A total of 5 respondents skipped both questions, so the final denominator for this computation is 796.

Specifically related to Indicator 14:

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of the respondents were competitively employed and/or enrolled in postsecondary education at some time since leaving high school (679 respondents working or in school/796 total responses).

Valid Data

Because the above formula does not account for non-respondents to particular items, the valid data is also presented in this report. According to these data:

- Seventy-two percent (72%) of the respondents reported being employed at some point since leaving high school.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of those working were competitively employed.
- Sixty-six percent (66%) of the respondents reported enrolling in some type of postsecondary education program.

Figure 1: Disability Type

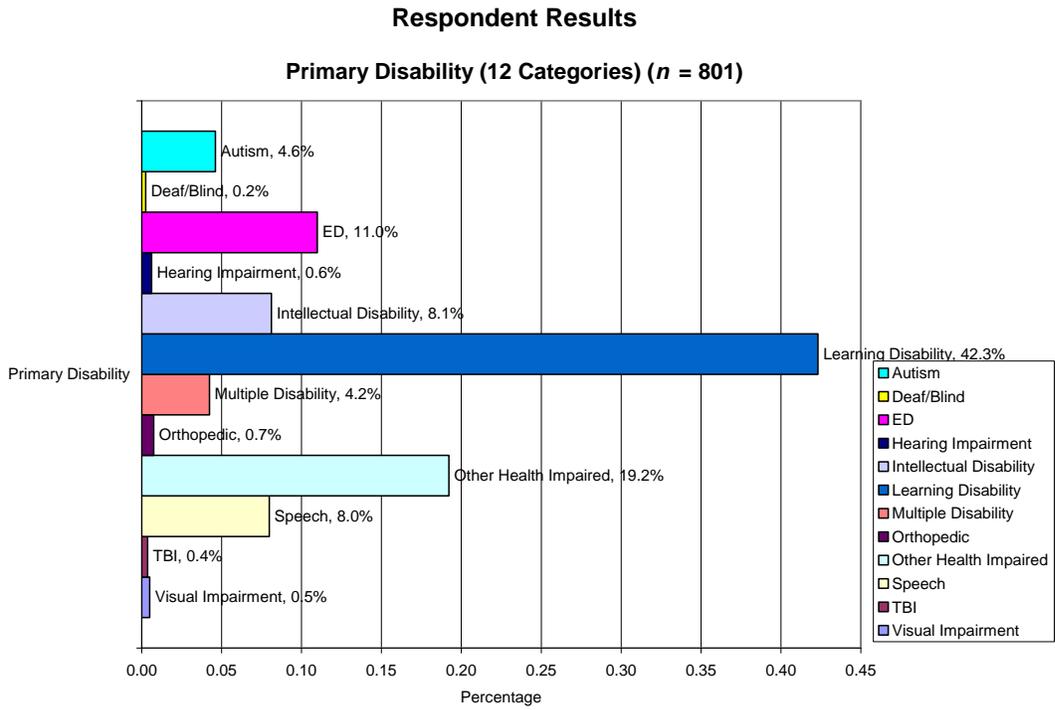


Figure 2: Exit Reason

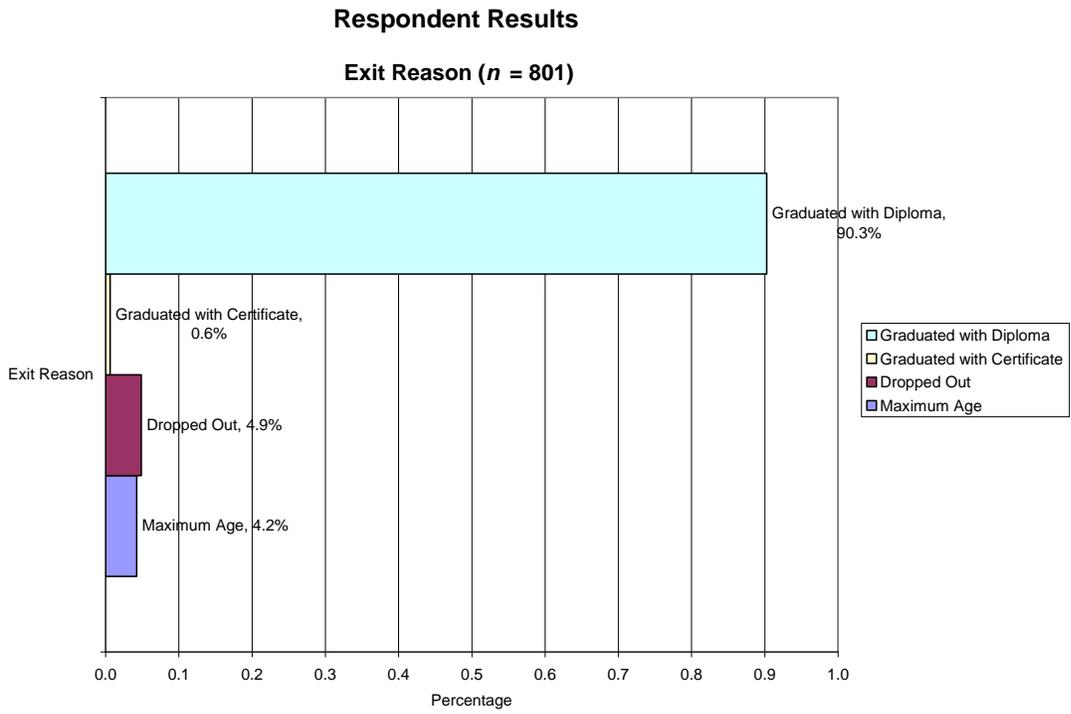


Figure 3: Employment

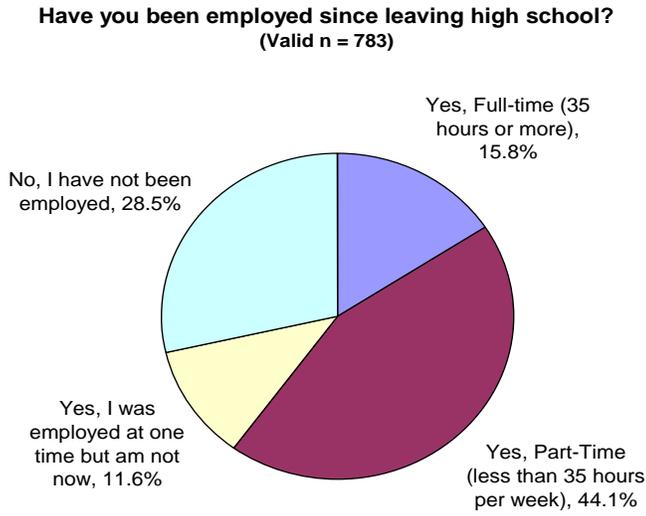


Figure 4: Salary

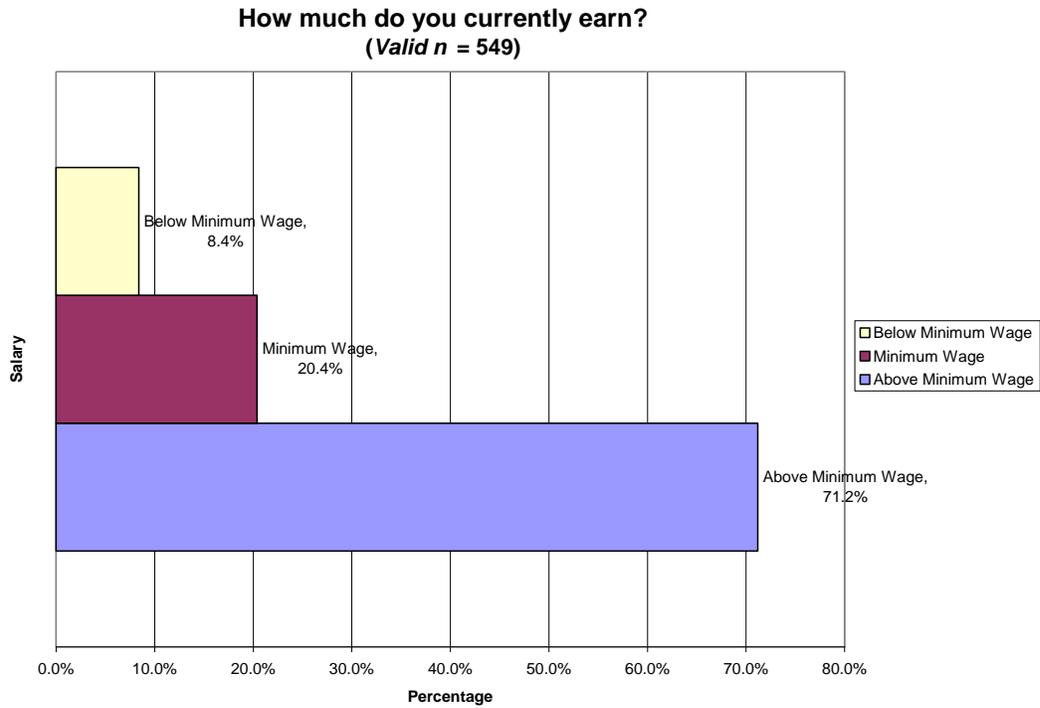


Figure 5: Postsecondary Enrollment

Have you enrolled in any postsecondary education since leaving high school?
(Valid n = 781)

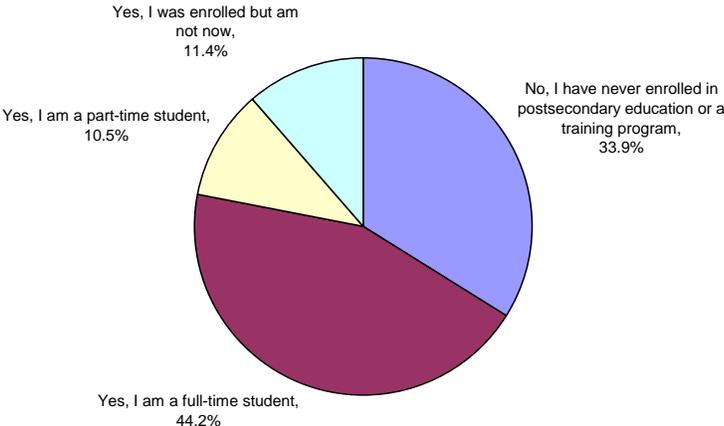


Figure 6: Type of Program

What type of postsecondary school did your enroll in?
(Valid n = 520)

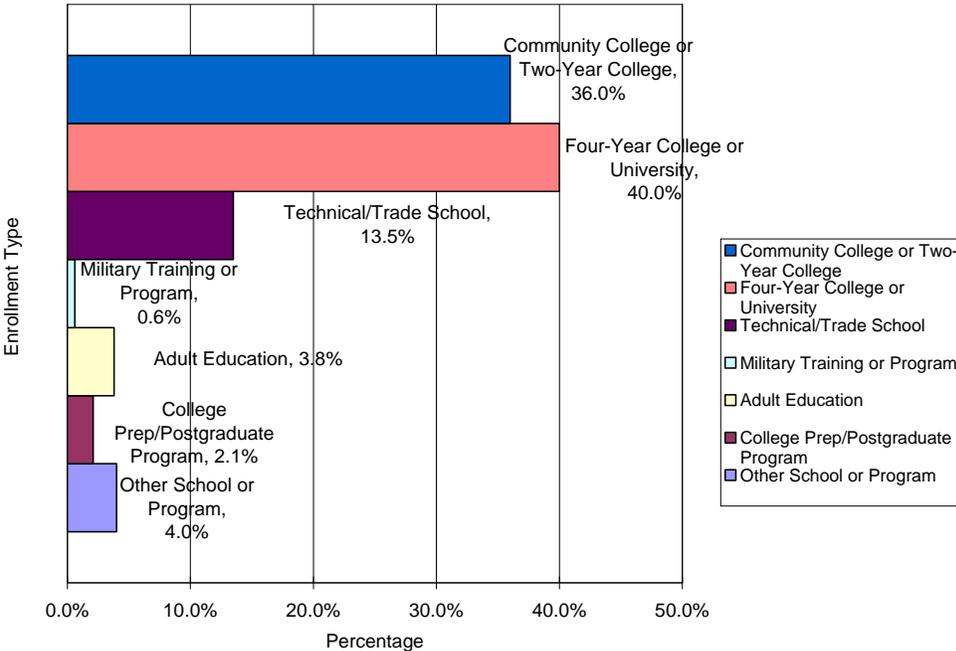


Figure 7: Satisfaction

