

**Post-School Outcomes Survey:  
2005 Exiters of Special Education Services**

**Executive Summary**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, 4,864 students exited special education services in local education agencies (LEA's) across the State of Connecticut. Two years after exit, each individual was mailed a survey by the Connecticut State Department of Education to obtain follow-up information on post-school outcomes. The survey included items in three broad categories: *Employment Status*; 2). *Postsecondary Education and Training Status*; and 3). *Additional Information*. The survey was designed to answer Indicator 14 of the State Performance Plan (SPP). Indicator 14 specifically requests 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.

Although the indicator specifies exiters within one year of leaving high school, the present investigation examines exiters two years after leaving high school, per agreement with the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation.

The exiters were sent two waves of mailings, and 882 responses were received. In addition, a total of 1,077 surveys were returned as undeliverable, due to incorrect or outdated address information, and 14 completed surveys were deleted during data analysis because they were completed by individuals outside of the target group. When the total sample size was adjusted for these surveys, the response rate was 23%.

As can be seen in Figure 1, young adults with learning disabilities were the largest cohort of respondents to the survey (44%), followed by those with emotional

disturbance (18%), intellectual disabilities (8%), other health impairments (8%), speech and language disorders (6%), and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (6%). Sixty-six percent (66%) of the respondents were males. The majority of respondents were White (79%), followed by respondents who were Black (11%) and Hispanic (9%) [see Figure 2]. Most respondents graduated with a regular diploma (80%), followed by those who dropped out of school (14%) and those who reached the maximum age for services (5%).

Specifically related to Indicator 14, 79% of the respondents reported holding employment at some point since leaving high school, with 90% of those competitively employed (as measured by earning at or above the minimum wage of \$7.65). Therefore, of the total set of respondents, 71% reported being competitively employed. Additionally, 66% reported enrolling in a postsecondary education or training program at some time since leaving high school. Thus, 93% of the sample was engaged in competitive employment or postsecondary enrollment after high school, while 59% reported *both* competitive employment and enrollment in a postsecondary program.

Figure 1: Disability Type

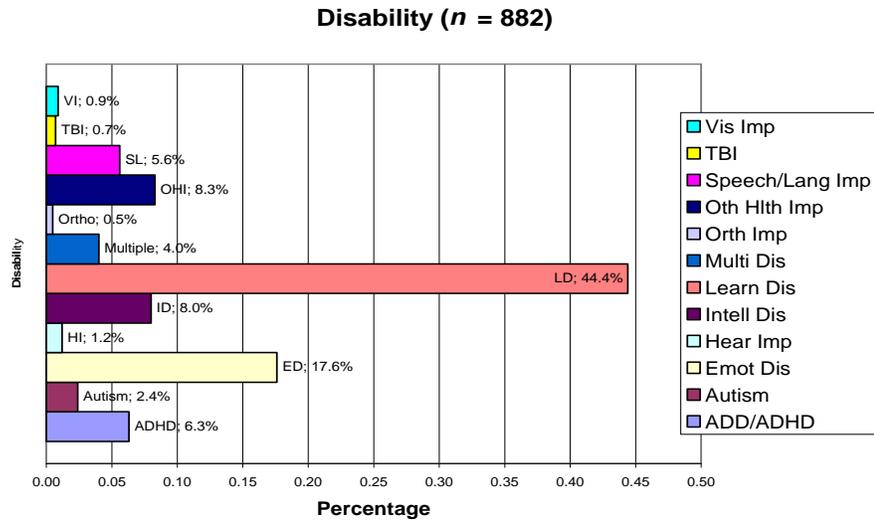


Figure 2: Exit Reason

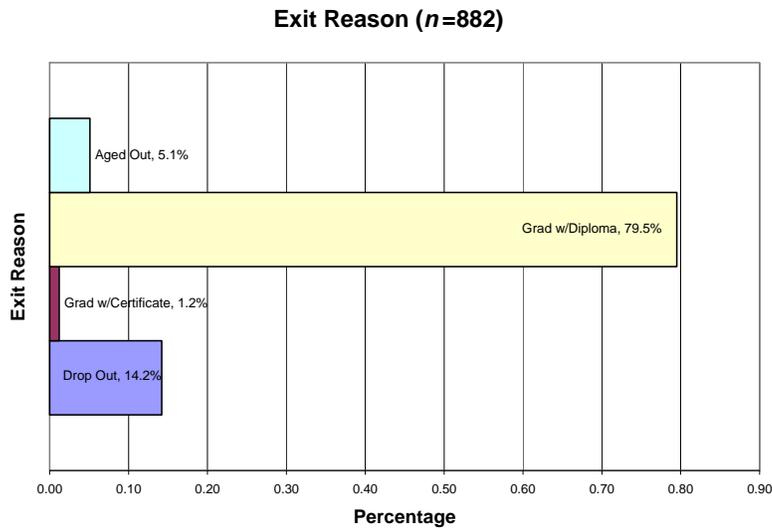


Figure 3: Employment Status

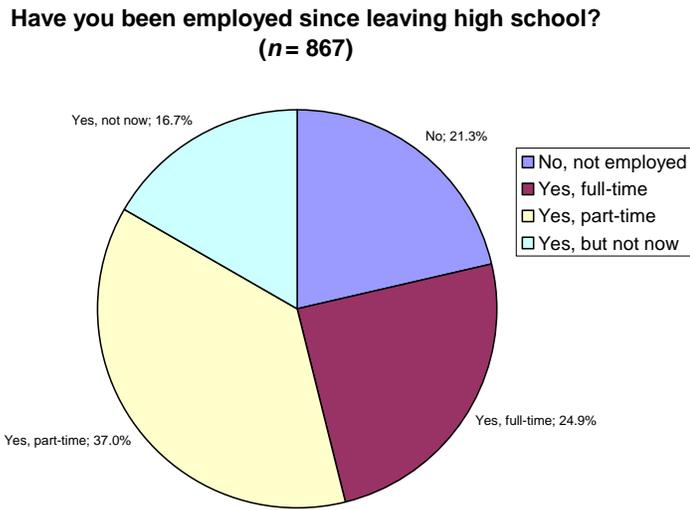


Figure 4: Salary

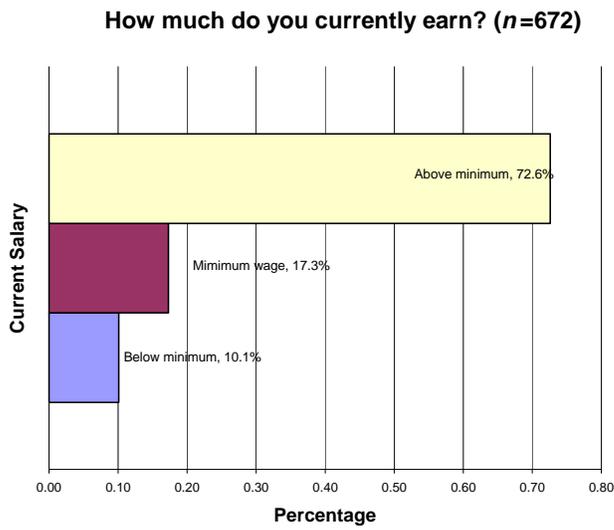


Figure 5: Postsecondary Enrollment

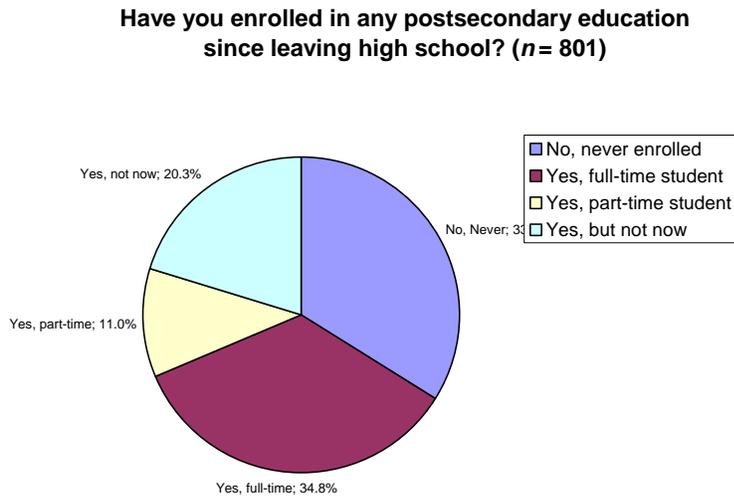


Figure 6: Type of Postsecondary Program

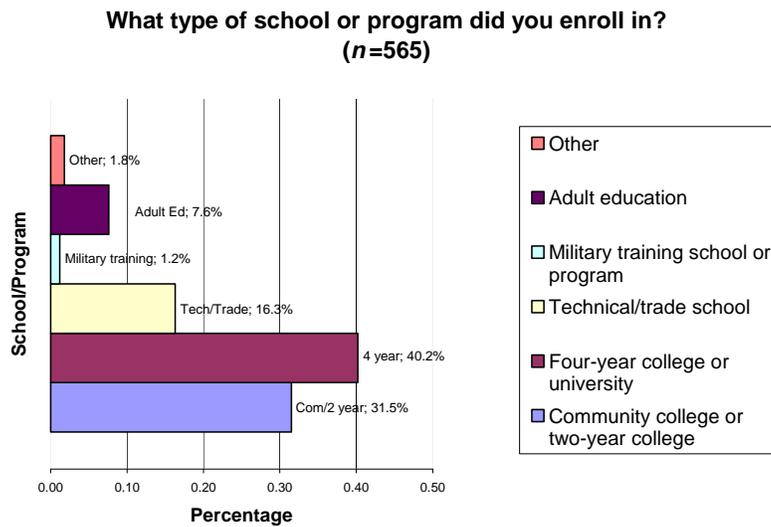


Figure 7: Life Satisfaction

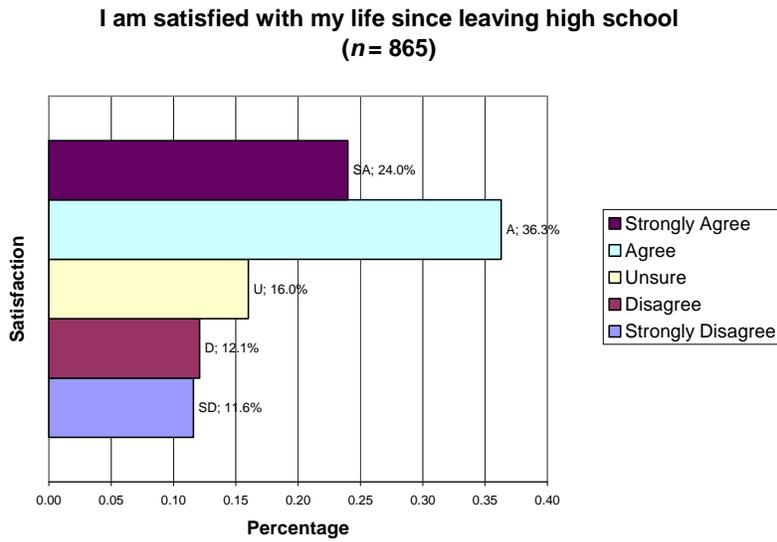


Figure 8: Employment: '04 v. '05 Exitters

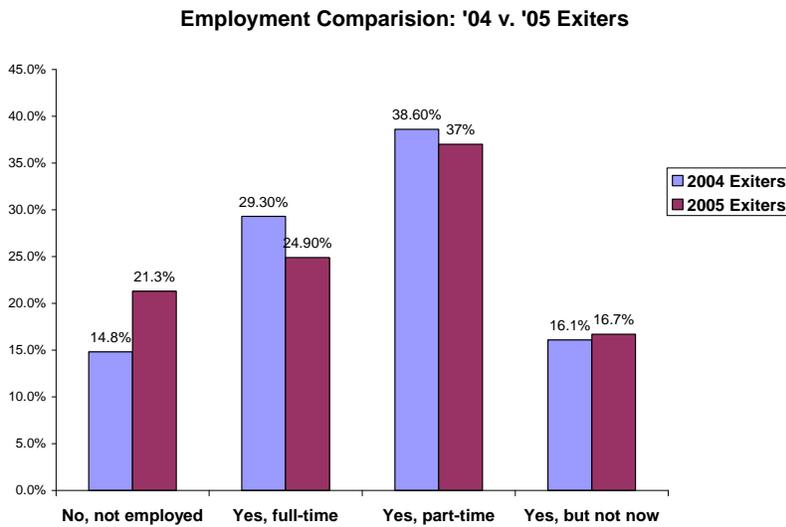


Figure 9: Enrollment: '04 v. '05 Exitters

