

## Cohort Default Rate

The school's official cohort default rate is published each September. This rate is for schools having 30 or more borrowers who enter repayment on certain Federal Family Education Loans (FFELs) and/or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans (Direct Loans) during that fiscal year and default (or meet the other specified condition) within the cohort default period. For schools with 29 or fewer borrowers entering repayment during a fiscal year, the cohort default rate is an "average rate" based on borrowers entering repayment over a three-year period.

The phrase "cohort default period" refers to the three-year period that begins on October 1 of the fiscal year when the borrower enters repayment and ends on September 30 of the third fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the borrower entered repayment.

Cohort default rates are based on federal fiscal years. Federal fiscal years begin October 1 and end on September 30 of the following calendar year. The phrase "cohort fiscal year" refers to the fiscal year for which the cohort default rate is calculated.

### [How does the Department calculate a school's cohort default rate?](#)

The cohort of students who enter repayment status is monitored for three years. The number of students who enter a default status during those three years becomes the numerator, and the total