Indicator (c)(10)

The State has produced and posted the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, including disaggregation for subgroups, at the state level for the 2009 graduating class on the Alabama Department of Education’s Website. In creating this initial run, many hours were spent hand tracking students due to the identifier problems that existed in the historical data. In order to accurately track each student to the specific series of schools that each attended, a tedious process of data clean up and creation of tracking records via manual intervention is required. This resulted in a delay in the ability to provide accurate graduation rates at the school level, including disaggregation for subgroups. However, this is currently being pursued, and the State plans to complete this process for both LEAs and schools for the 2009 cohort as required by Indicator (c)(10). For the future, the State plans to have an automated process in place by the end of March 2011 for the calculation of the 2010 and subsequent four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates at all levels (State, LEA, and school).

The Alabama Department of Education, through the Information Systems section and the Assessment and Accountability section, will be responsible for the development, execution, and oversight of the tasks needed to complete this requirement. The plan, including the timeline and progress updates, will be posted on the Alabama Department of Education’s ARRA website. Each year the individual LEA and school reports will be provided to the Superintendent in each district for preview prior to public release. The reports, once previewed by the LEA, will be moved to the public website for public access.

Timeline: The State will produce the remainder of the 2009 four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate reports by the end of September 2010 which will be for each LEA in the State, for each high school in the State and, at each of these levels, by student subgroup [consistent with section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the ESEA], provide the number and percentage (including numerator and denominator) of students who graduate from high school using a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as required by 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1)(i).

The State will create the necessary student tracking data base model and load data for students beginning fall of 2010 through January 2011. The required processing application will be developed between November 2010 and February 2011. Superintendents will be provided access through a secure portal to preview the 2010 cohort rate by the end of March 2011.

For 2009 cohort:

- Summer 2010 – Compute 2009 LEA and school disaggregated four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates
- Summer 2010 – Preview of 2009 LEA and school disaggregated four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates by Superintendents prior to public release
- September 2010 – Post 2009 LEA and school disaggregated four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates to Alabama Department of Education’s Website
For 2010 and beyond cohorts:

- **Summer 2010** – Complete the requirements analysis for **automation** of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate
- **Fall 2010** – Design the student tracking database model needed for automation of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate
- **Fall 2010 thru January 2011** – Code the automated processing application and web application for the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate
- **February 2011** – Test the automated process and Web Portal Application for the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate
- **February thru March 2011** – Compute 2010 State, LEA, and school disaggregated four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates
- **March 2011** – Preview of 2010 LEA and school disaggregated four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates by Superintendents prior to public release
- **March 2011** – Release the 2010 four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate analysis to the public for the State, LEAs, and schools

**Obstacles:** Potential obstacles to meeting this indicator include the following:

- Data clean up and removal of duplicate student SSID’s from 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 student data may require extra time due to the need to manually intervene and search for correct and complete data.
- Quality assurance time to ensure that students are properly tracked across schools

**Funding Source and Budget:** The funding source will be both state and federal monies. An estimated budget for development, programming, and processing for this indicator is $250,000.