



Charlotte Valley Central School

“Empowering Students Today to Conquer the Challenges of Tomorrow”

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Yesterday, *The Daily Star* reported that the graduation rate at Charlotte Valley Central School for the class of 2018 was 59% - The numbers that have been reported to *The Daily Star* are from the 2013-2014 cohort. In New York State, a cohort starts when a student enters 9th grade. The cohort follows that student/grade until they graduate.

Any student that entered 9th grade in the 2013-2014 cohort stayed with that cohort YEAR regardless of the district they were enrolled in. Likewise, when looking at THIS YEAR, our current 9th graders have been assigned to the 2017-2018 cohort; this label will stay with each student until their projected date of graduation of 2021.

Back to *The Daily Star*'s report. Last year's senior class (2013-2014 cohort), is broken down as the following:

Sixteen (16) graduated

Four (4) dropped out

Four (4) transferred – Two (2) without proper documentation, two after the graduation date (they are finishing their education in another school district)

One (1) received a CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) credential (formerly an IEP diploma)

One (1) is receiving special education services until they are 21 years old

One (1) student is graduating this year (5-year track)

The data that the State reports is extremely misleading. It would have us thinking that only 6/10 kids graduate each year (59%). That is not the case. The 59% does not reflect the transfers, CDOS, Special Ed. Placement, or five-year track student – those instances are counted against us. This is how that number of 59% was found.

If we were to base graduation rates on “drop-outs” only for the 2013-2014 cohort– our graduation rate for last year would have been 80%, which is right in line with the State's average.

We will have an in-depth conversation about these misleading numbers and the facts at our March 1st Board of Education Meeting. I encourage you to attend at 6:30 to get the facts.

Any questions or concerns in the meantime – please call. We are happy to speak with you.