

MO DESE Mobility Definition

Last updated 10/12/22 by Rachel Matsumoto

Student Mobility: The percentage of students in a school in a given year that moved into or out of a school for reasons other than academic promotion.

Transfers

Fall Enrollment + Additional Enrollment

Transfers: The number of students who have been enrolled in a school during the school year at some point (for non-0 days) who have transferred **either** in or out.

Note: If a student has transferred in and out of a school in the same year, this is counted as one transfer. If a student just transferred out or in, this is also one transfer. A student may be double counted if they transfer back *into* a school they have already attended during the year. This is due to the way transfers are calculated. Transfers are the sum of any student record submitted for the school that has a “flag” of a student transferring, either in or out. If a student previously enrolled in a school returns in the same year, they receive a new student record. That record would indicate they transferred in. Their old record would indicate they transferred out. Thus, they would be counted as two “transfers.”

Example: A student starts the school year at School A. They then transfer to School B in December. After several months, they transferred back to School A in March. This would be counted as two transfers because they would receive a new student record. Both their previous record and the new record would have an “instance” of the student transferring on it, and thus would be counted as two “transfers” in the state formula.

Fall Enrollment: Student enrollment as of the first count day in the fall

Additional Enrollment: Transfers In, with the additional requirement that the student attended more than “0” hours. Also, students enrolled on the first count date are excluded. In other words, students who transferred in on or before the last Wednesday in September and stayed enrolled until the last Wednesday in September are excluded (the count date is the last Wednesday in September).

Building-Level vs. District-Level Mobility Rates:

Building-level mobility rates include students who transfer between schools, even if those schools are a part of the same LEA. District-Level mobility rates only include students who transfer between different LEAs.

Mobility Incidents vs. DESE’s Mobility Rate:

Mobility rates in Missouri represent the percentage of mobile students out of all the students who have been enrolled in the school during a school year. It does not distinguish between type of mobility (in or out) or the number of times a student has been mobile. This is different from

the *mobility incidence rate*. Mobility incidence rate represents the *number of times* a school has experienced a transfer. For the incident rate of transfer outs, this would be the number of times a school has had anyone transfer out of the school. The incident rate for transfer ins would represent the number of times a school has had anyone transfer in. This could be thought of as analogous to the number of times paperwork has been submitted to transfer a student in or out.

$$\frac{\text{Transfer In Incidents} + \text{Transfer Out Incidents}}{\text{Fall Enrollment} + \text{Additional Enrollment}}$$

While the mobility rate reported by DESE is a good indicator of how many students within a student population have experienced some type of mobility during the year, incidents of mobility represent the disruption caused at the school level: every time a teacher must onboard a new student; the added administrative burden of transferring paperwork; the churn of students within a classroom throughout the school year. The discrepancy between this measure and the Mobility Rate reported by the state could illuminate some of the burden experienced by schools not reflected in regular reporting.

Equivalent Measures in Other States

Because mobility rates reported by DESE represent the percentage of a school's student body who have been mobile, the closest equivalent measures of mobility from other states the publicly report student mobility data appear to be states that report unduplicated counts of students, such as [Colorado](#). It is important to note that Missouri's mobility rates may include duplicated counts of students for both "Transfers" and "Additional Enrollment" (as outlined under transfers) and thus is not exactly comparable.

Sources:

[MO DESE website](#)

Emails with [Konnie Koenigsfeld](#) 9/22 and [Michael Reda](#) at DESE - 10/22

Discussion with Michael Reda 10/12/22

Appendix:

Missouri DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
Missouri Comprehensive Data System

Home | School Comparison | Data Dashboards

Choose District or Charter
STATE OF MISSOURI | District / Charter Name | County District Code

% mobile students

Year	% mobile students
2019	22.53%
2020	20.10%
2021	19.44%

STATE OF MISSOURI

What is it?
Percentage of students in a school in a given year that moved into or out of a school for reasons other than academic promotion.

How is it calculated?
Mobility rate equals the number of transfers divided by total enrollment (fall count date plus additional enrollment) multiplied by 100.

How is it used?
Mobility rate is used to help a district determine how quickly they are catching students up who move in, as well as determine how the district is doing with students who have not moved (stability).

Why is it important?
High student mobility rates are associated with lower reading and math achievement and lower rates of attendance.

For questions or comments please contact msip@dese.mo.gov

Screenshot from MCDS Data Portal 10/12/22

Mobility Definitions from MO DESE Data Portal

Pathway: Data Dashboard > Choose a district > Click on Mobility Rate > Hover over variable

What are mobility rates?

Student mobility refers to students who change school districts or charter schools during a school year for any reason other than advancing to the next highest grade, i.e. grade promotion.

19.4% Missouri Mobility Rate (2020-21)

St. Louis City (115115)

Select Year: 2020-21 | 2019-20 | 2018-19 | 2017-18 | 2016-17

District/Charter: St. Louis City (115115)

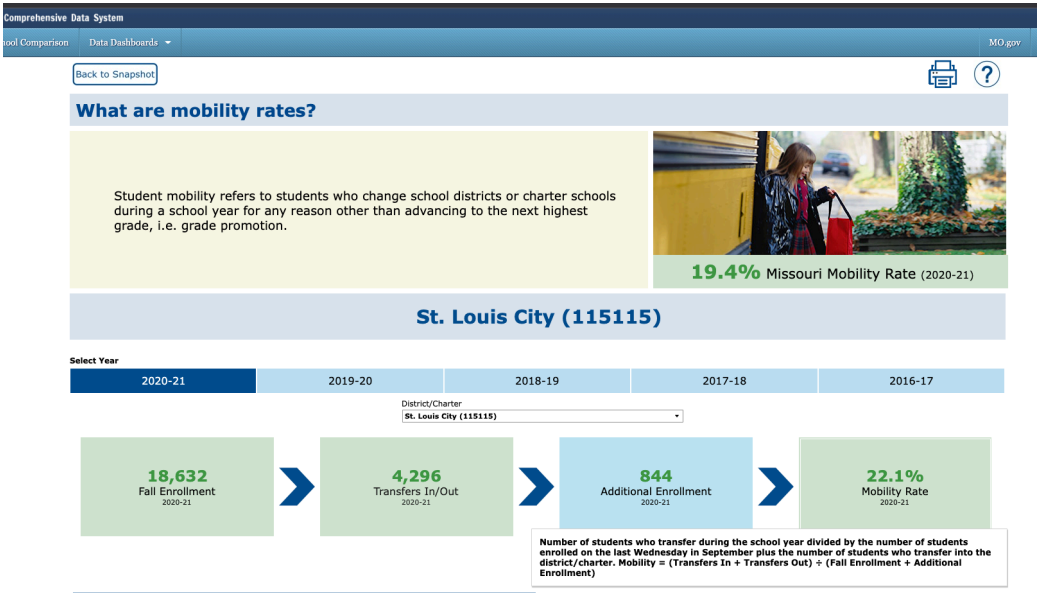
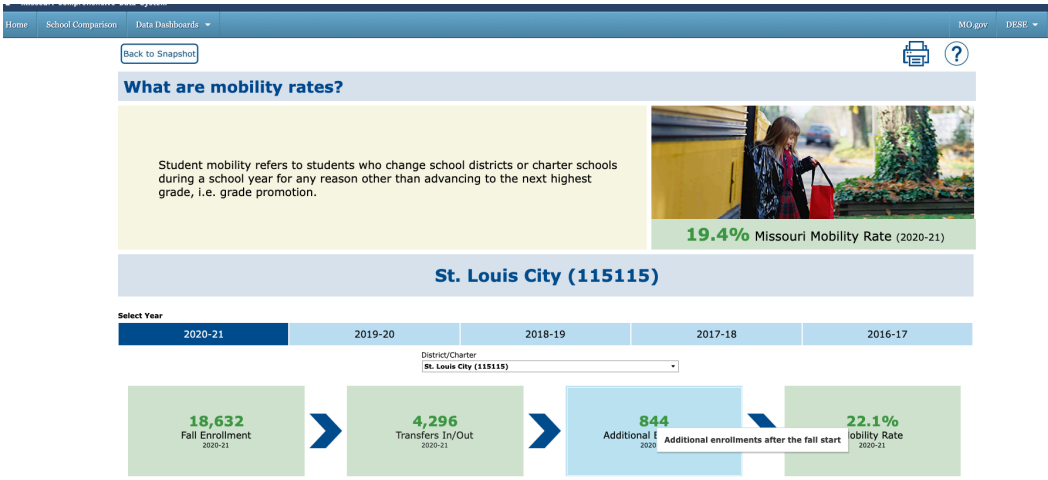
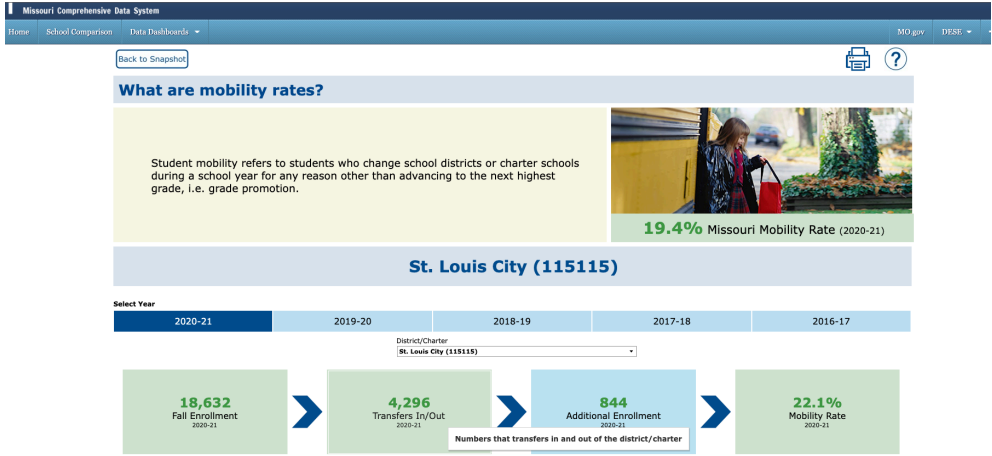
18,632 Fall Enrollment 2020-21

4,296 Transfers In/Out 2020-21

844 Additional Enrollment 2020-21

22.1% Mobility Rate 2020-21

Number of student enrollments in the fall



Screenshots from MCDS Portal 10/12/22