

Metadata for Other Policy Relevant Indicators

Number of repeaters

Definition

Number of pupils from a cohort enrolled in a given grade at a given school year who study in the same grade in the following school year.

Purpose

To measure the magnitude of repetition by grade, as part of the internal efficiency of the education system, and also to inform policies about education supply capacity for new entrants by grade.

Calculation method

Use data on the number of repeaters or remove the number of new entrants in a given grade from the total enrolment in that grade.

$$R_i^{t+1} = E_i^{t+1} - NE_i^{t+1}$$

Where:

R_i^{t+1} = Number of pupils repeating grade i , in school year $t+1$

E_i^{t+1} = Number of pupils enrolled in grade i , in school year $t+1$

NE_i^{t+1} = Number of new entrants in grade i , in school year $t+1$

Note: the number of repeaters for the whole level of education in school year **t+1** is the sum of repeaters in all grades of the given level in the reference school year.

Interpretation

Large values denotes high prevalence of grade repetition practices, and serious problems with the internal efficiency of the education system.

Type of data source

Administrative data.

Disaggregation

By grade and sex.

Data required

Enrolment and new entrants by grade for the reference school year.

Data sources

School register or school census for data on enrolment by grade.

Quality assurance

The calculation of this indicator should be based on reliable data on enrolment and new entrants by grade and sex at each level of education (primary and lower secondary) and from all types of educational institutions in the country (public and private).

The definition of repeaters should be unambiguously applied to include even pupils repeating more than once in the same grade and those who repeat the same grade while transferring from one school to another. Pupils or students who were not studying in the same grade in the previous year should be excluded.

The UIS sets standards, develops questionnaires and quality control protocols for country data reporting, and maintains the global database on the structure of education, and enrolment data by grade.

Limitations and comments

The level and maximum number of grade repetitions allowed can in some cases be determined by the educational authorities with the aim of coping with limited grade capacity and increasing the internal efficiency and flow of pupils. Care should be taken in interpreting this indicator, especially in comparisons between education systems.