



# Parent Guide to the California School Dashboard

## What Is the California School Dashboard?

The California School Dashboard (or the Dashboard) is an **online tool** that shows parents and communities how schools and districts are performing on test scores, graduation rates, and other measures of student success. These multiple measures of success reflect California's new accountability system, which is based on the ten priority areas of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/lcffoverview.asp>.

## What Are the Measures of School Success?

California uses certain measures, or **indicators**, to look at how districts, schools, and student groups (such as English learners and low-income students) are performing and where they need to improve.

### State Indicators

State indicators, based on information collected statewide, allow parents to compare schools and districts across California.

There are **six** state indicators:

Six State Indicators
1. Chronic Absenteeism
2. Suspension Rate (for grades K–12)
3. English Learner Progress (for grades 1–12)
4. Graduation Rate (for high school only)
5. College/Career (for high school only)
6. Academic (for grades 3–8 only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English language arts/literacy (ELA)</li><li>• Mathematics</li></ul>

Note: You can learn more about each of these indicators in Appendix A: What More Should We Know about the State Indicators?

### Local Indicators

While state indicators are based on information collected statewide, local indicators are based on information collected by districts. These indicators include basic conditions (teacher qualifications, safe and clean buildings, and textbooks for all students); implementation of academic standards; school climate surveys; and parent involvement and engagement.

## How Is Performance Measured?

Performance on the state indicators is measured by looking at **Status** and **Change**.

**Status** is based on the **current year of data**. For each indicator, there are **five** Status levels:

Five Status Levels
Very High
High
Medium
Low
Very Low

**Change** is found by comparing current year results (**Status**) and results from the prior year (or, in some cases, an average of years):

***Current Year Results (Status) minus Prior Year Results = Change***

For each indicator, there are **five** Change levels:

Five Change Levels
Increased Significantly
Increased
Maintained
Declined
Declined Significantly

Based on both the Status and Change, a **performance level** is given.

## What Are Performance Levels?

Schools and districts receive **one of five performance levels** on each state indicator. Each performance level is identified by a different **color**:

Performance Levels
Blue (Highest Performance)
Green
Yellow
Orange
Red (Lowest Performance)

## How Is Performance Determined Using the Five-by-Five Tables?

The combination of the five Status levels and the five Change levels results in **25 boxes**, which are displayed in a **five-by-five colored table**. The performance level (color) is the point where the Status level and Change level meet.

**Example:** A school with a “**Medium**” status level for graduation and an “**Increase**” in change will receive an overall performance level of **Green**.

		Graduation Change				
		Declined Significantly by greater than 5.0%	Declined by 1.0% to 5.0%	Maintained Declined or increased by less than 1.0%	Increased by 1.0% to less than 5.0%	Increased Significantly by 5.0% or greater
Graduation Status	Very High 85.0% or greater	N/A	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
	High 90.0% to less than 95.0%	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue
	Medium 85.0% to less than 90.0%	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green
	Low 87.0% to less than 85.0%	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
	Very Low Less than 87.0%	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

## How to Find a School or District on the Five-by-Five Placement Reports

To find a school or district on the CDE California Model Five-Five Placement Reports & Data Web page: <http://www6.cde.ca.gov/californiamodel/>.

1. **Type part of the name** of the school or district and click the “**Search**” button. (If you don’t know the name of the school, you may select from the Search Results menu.)
1. **Choose** a state indicator.

Let’s look again at the Five-by-Five Table for the **Graduation Rate Indicator**.

### Graduation Performance Categories

#### Graduation Change

Level	Declined Significantly	Declined	Maintained	Increased	Increased Significantly
	by greater than 5.0%	by 1.0% to 5.0%	Declined or increased by less than 1.0%	by 1.0% to less than 5.0%	by 5.0% or greater
<b>Very High</b> 95.0% or greater	N/A	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
<b>High</b> 90.0% to less than 95.0%	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue
<b>Medium</b> 85.0% to less than 90.0%	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green
<b>Low</b> 67.0% to less than 85.0%	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
<b>Very Low</b> Less than 67.0%	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

In this example, notice that:

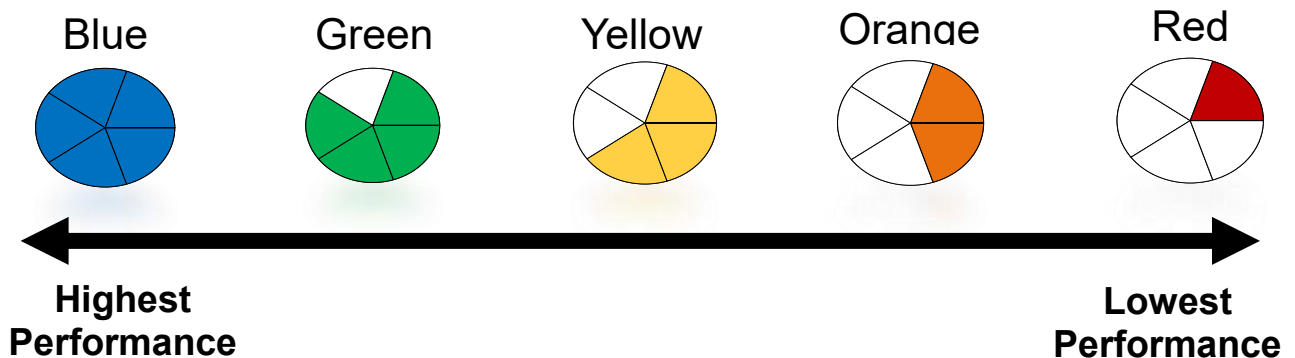
- A very high graduation rate is 95.0 percent or greater.
- A very low graduation rate is less than 67.0 percent.
- Increasing by more than 5.0 percent is considered significant positive change (increased significantly).
- Decreasing by more than 5.0 percent is considered significant negative change (declined significantly).
- A district or school with a “**Very High**” Status level and a Change level of “**Maintained**” (declined or increased by less than 1.0 percent) will have an overall performance level of **Blue**.

## How Is Performance Reported on the Dashboard?

The Dashboard provides four different kinds of reports:



On the Dashboard reports, the performance levels appear as **circles** that are partially or fully filled in by a color.



The color and amount that the circle is filled are two ways of showing the performance level. For example, **Green** will always have four segments filled and **Red** will always have one segment filled.

### How to Find a School or District on the Dashboard

To find a school or district on the CDE California School Dashboard Web page:

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#Home>.






2. **Type part of the name** of the school or district and click the **“Search”** button. (If you don't know the name of the school, go to the district Dashboard report and select from the [List of all schools in this district](#).)
3. **Choose** the report that you wish to review.

### Equity Report

The first report that appears is the **Equity Report**. This report shows:

- The performance levels (or colors) for all students on the state indicators.
- The total number of student groups that received a performance level (or color).
- The total number of student groups that received an **Orange** and/or **Red** color (the two lowest performance levels).

A sample Equity Report appears below.

Equity Report	Status and Change Report	Detailed Reports	Student Group Report
<p>The Equity Report shows the performance levels for all students on the state indicators. It also shows the total number of student groups that received a performance level for each indicator and how many of those student groups are in the two lowest performance levels (Red/Orange). The total number of student groups may vary due to the number of grade levels included within each indicator.</p>			
State Indicators	All Students Performance	Total Student Groups	Student Groups in Red/Orange
Chronic Absenteeism	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Suspension Rate (K-12)</a>		9	2
<a href="#">English Learner Progress (K-12)</a>		1	0
<a href="#">Graduation Rate (9-12)</a>		6	4
<a href="#">College/Career</a> Available Fall 2017. Select for Grade 11 assessment results.		N/A	N/A
<a href="#">English Language Arts (3-8)</a>		8	0
<a href="#">Mathematics (3-8)</a>		8	1

Let's look at how this school performed on the **Suspension Rate Indicator**. (This is the second state indicator on the Equity Report.)






- Notice that the overall performance **for all students** is **Yellow**. This means that improvement is needed on this indicator.
- We can also see a total of **nine** student groups received a performance level (or color) for the Suspension Rate Indicator and that **two** of the student groups received an **Orange** or **Red** color, which are the **two lowest performance levels**.

## Status and Change Report

Another important report is the **Status and Change Report**. It shows how students performed in the current year and whether they improved over the past year (or years). Here is an example of Status and Change Report:

Equity Report **Status and Change Report** Detailed Reports Student Group Report

The status and change report provides the performance level for all students on all state indicators and identifies the status for the current year and change relative to the prior year for each state indicator.

State Indicators	All Students Performance	Status	Change
Chronic Absenteeism	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Suspension Rate (K-12)</a>		Low 2.2%	Increased +0.3%
<a href="#">English Learner Progress (K-12)</a>		Very High 90.2%	Increased +2.7%
<a href="#">Graduation Rate (9-12)</a>		High 93.1%	Declined -1.5%
<a href="#">College/Career</a> Available Fall 2017. Select for Grade 11 assessment results.		N/A	N/A
<a href="#">English Language Arts (3-8)</a>		Very High 49 points below level 3	Maintained +6.2 points
<a href="#">Mathematics (3-8)</a>		High 31 points above level 3	Increased +6.5 points

Performance Levels:  Blue (Highest)  Green  Yellow  Orange  Red (Lowest)

Let's look at how this high school performed on the **Graduation Rate Indicator**. (This is the fourth State Indicator on the report.)

- The overall performance level for **all students** is **Yellow**. This means that improvement is needed on this indicator.
- The Status level is high (93.1 percent), yet the school's graduate rate has declined by 1.5% over the past year, as shown under the Change column.



# Appendix A: What More Should We Know About the State Indicators

Now let's look at each of the State Indicators in more detail.

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## 1. Chronic Absenteeism Indicator

Based on the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) guidelines, students who miss more than 10 percent of the academic year are deemed chronically absent. Although the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted chronic absenteeism as a state indicator, the calculation method has not yet been approved. The California Department of Education (CDE) anticipates a decision will be made at the November SBE meeting.

## 2. Suspension Rate Indicator

This indicator is based on the number of students who were suspended anytime during the school year.

Unlike the other indicators, where a high status and a significant increase is the goal, the suspension rate should be low. It means that fewer students are being suspended. Therefore, a low status level and a significant decline in suspension is good news for a school or district!

## 3. English Learner Progress Indicator

This indicator is based on the number of English learners (ELs) and long-term ELs who made progress on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) or who were reclassified as English proficient.

## 4. Graduation Rate Indicator

This indicator applies only to schools and districts that serve high school students and is based on the number of students who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years. Students who earn a Special Education Certificate of Completion or a general equivalency diploma are not counted.

## 5. College/Career Indicator

Like the Graduation Rate Indicator, this College/Career Indicator (CCI) applies only to schools and districts that serve high school students **and** is based on the percentage of

students who are **prepared** for college or career when they graduate from high school. To learn about all of the measures used to determine if students are prepared, please see the CDE College/Career Indicator Web page available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/cci.asp>.

## **6. Academic Indicator: English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics**

This indicator is based on performance on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and mathematics for students in grades three through eight and how far the average student is from meeting the standard. While performance on these assessments is determined by the overall scale score, the Academic Indicator is a measure of how far the average student is from **meeting the standard** in ELA and mathematics. Thus, the Status and Change for this indicator are based on the average “Distance from Level 3” (or average distance from the “Standard Met” achievement level) in the current and prior years. (Grade eleven results are not used in the Academic Indicator. They will be reported in the CCI.)