



**TOM TORLAKSON**  
State Superintendent  
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# The Graduation Rate Indicator



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# Graduation Rate Indicator

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to identify high schools with a graduation rate less than 67 percent for potential interventions.
- Therefore, the cut point for the **Status** of “Very Low” was set at less than 67 percent.

See Handout 1 for graduation formula.



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# Status Cut Points

**Status:** The following table provides the proposed cut points for each status level:

Status Level	Status Cut Point
Very Low	Graduation rate is less than 67%
Low	Graduation rate is 67% to less than 85%
Median	Graduation rate is 85% to less than 90%
High	Graduation rate is 90% to less than 95%
Very High	Graduation rate is 95% or greater



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# Status Cut Points (Cont.)

Percentile	Graduation Rate	Status Level
5	61.8760	Very Low
6.2	67.0000	Low
10	77.1140	
15	81.8700	
20	84.7200	
20.2	85.0000	Median
25	86.8200	
30	88.2880	
35	89.4880	
37.1	90.0000	High
40	90.5800	
45	91.3240	
50	92.1500	
55	92.9100	
60	93.5240	
65	94.2000	
70	94.8020	
72	95.0000	Very High
75	95.3500	
80	96.0560	
85	96.7740	
90	97.3280	
95	98.0120	

See  
 Handout 2



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# Change Cut Points

**Change:** The following table provides the proposed cut points for each change level:

Change Level	Change Cut Point
Declined Significantly	Graduation rate declined by more than 5%
Declined	Graduation rate declined by 1% to 5%
Maintained	Declined or increased by less than 1%
Increased	Graduation rate increased by 1% to less than 5%
Increased Significantly	Graduation rate increased by 5% or more

NOTE: Change is based on a three-year average (i.e., current graduation rate minus three-year average).



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# Change Cut Points (Cont.)

Percentiles	Graduation Rate Change	Change Levels
5	-9.4200	Declined Significantly
10	-6.7400	
15	-5.3000	
16.5	-5.0000	Declined
20	-4.4000	
25	-3.6000	
30	-3.0000	
35	-2.4000	
40	-1.9000	
45	-1.6000	
50	-1.2000	Maintained
52	-1.0000	
55	-.7000	
60	-.3000	Increased
65	.4000	
69.5	1.0000	Increased
70	1.1000	
75	1.6000	
80	2.5800	Increased Significantly
85	3.9000	
89.5	5.0000	
90	5.3400	Increased Significantly
95	8.3000	

See  
 Handout 3



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# Performance Categories

## Red Performance Category:

- ESSA requires all schools with a graduation rate below 67% to be identified for support.
- The Red Performance Category is different for the graduation rate than the other indicators (i.e., all local educational agencies and schools with a graduation rate below 67% will be placed in the red performance category).



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# Performance Categories (Cont.)

## Blue Performance Category:

- Any LEA or school with a graduation rate at or above 95% will be categorized in the Blue Performance Category regardless of their “Change” level (e.g., a school with a graduation rate of 98% in the prior year and a graduation rate of 96% in the current year would be classified as Blue).





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# Example of Performance on Graduation Rate Indicator

Example: A school with a **Change** of Declined and a **Status** of High would have an overall performance of **Yellow** for the graduation rate indicator.

## Change

Status	Change					
	Level	Declined Significantly by more than 5%	Declined by 1% to 5%	Maintained Declined or improved by less than 1%	Increased by 1% to less than 5%	Increased Significantly by 5% or more
Very High 95% or more	Gray	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
High 90% to less than 95%	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue	Blue
Median 85% to less than 90%	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Low 67% to less than 85%	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Very Low Less than 67%	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red



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# Statewide Summary Results

	N/A	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
ALL DISTRICTS* (515)	N/A	70 (13.6%)	122 (23.7%)	106 (20.6%)	81 (15.7%)	136 (26.4%)
ALL SCHOOLS* (1221)	N/A	99 (8.1%)	85 (7.0%)	186 (15.2%)	298 (24.4%)	553 (45.3%)

See Handouts 4, 5, and 6 for statewide district, school, and student group results.

\* Alternative schools, county offices of education, and schools with less than 30 enrolled students were excluded from the count.



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# Discussion Questions

- Is the Red performance category appropriate (i.e., less than 67%), which will trigger interventions for schools, and possibly for LEAs?
- Is the Green performance category, which establishes a statewide goal of 90% appropriate for all non-alternative schools and LEAs?

## 2015 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Formula

Number of students who earn a regular high school diploma\*  
by the end of 2014–15 cohort

**divided by**

Number of first-time grade nine students in 2011–12 plus students who transfer in,  
minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during school years 2011–12,  
2012–13, 2013–14, and 2014–15.

For example, the Class of 2014–15 had a four-year cohort of 488,612 students\*\*. Out of that cohort 401,957 students graduated with a regular high school diploma by the end of 2014–15.

$$\frac{401,957}{488,612} = 82.3\% \text{ Graduation Rate}$$

\*Students who earn a Special Education Certificate of Completion or a General Education Degree (GED) are not counted as high school graduates but are included in the denominator.

\*\*Source: DataQuest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>)

## Distribution for Status Graduation Rate Indicator

### STATUS

Percentile	Graduation Rate	Status Level
5	61.8760	Very Low
6.2	67.0000	
10	77.1140	Low
15	81.8700	
20	84.7200	
20.2	85.0000	
25	86.8200	Median
30	88.2880	
35	89.4880	
37.1	90.0000	High
40	90.5800	
45	91.3240	
50	92.1500	
55	92.9100	
60	93.5240	
65	94.2000	
70	94.8020	
72	95.0000	Very High
75	95.3500	
80	96.0560	
85	96.7740	
90	97.3280	
95	98.0120	

Total Number of Districts = 515

## Distribution for Change Graduation Rate Indicator

### Change

Percentiles	Graduation Rate Change	Change Levels
5	-9.4200	Declined Significantly
10	-6.7400	
15	-5.3000	
16.5	-5.0000	Declined
20	-4.4000	
25	-3.6000	
30	-3.0000	
35	-2.4000	
40	-1.9000	
45	-1.6000	
50	-1.2000	
52	-1.0000	
55	-.7000	Maintained
60	-.3000	
65	.4000	
69.5	1.0000	Increased
70	1.1000	
75	1.6000	
80	2.5800	
85	3.9000	
89.5	5.0000	
90	5.3400	Increased Significantly
95	8.3000	

Total Number of Districts = 515

## Graduation Performance Categories

### Graduation Change

Graduation Status	Level	Declined Significantly by more than 5%	Declined by 1% to 5%	Maintained Declined or improved by less than 1%	Increased by 1% to less than 5%	Increased Significantly by 5% or more
	Very High 95% or more	Gray	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
	High 90% to less than 95%	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue
	Median 85% to less than 90%	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green
	Low 67% to less than 85%	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
	Very Low Less than 67%	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

### Statewide Districts' Performance

# of districts	N/A	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
515	N/A	70 (13.6%)	122 (23.7%)	106 (20.6%)	81 (15.7%)	136 (26.4%)

### Statewide Schools' Performance

# of schools	N/A	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
1,221	N/A	99 (8.1%)	85 (7.0%)	186 (15.2%)	298 (24.4%)	553 (45.3%)

### Performance by School Type

School Type	# of Schools	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
Non Charter	1,026	56 (5.5%)	69 (6.7%)	153 (14.9%)	263 (25.6%)	485 (47.3%)
Charter	195	43 (22.1%)	16 (8.2%)	33 (16.9%)	35 (17.9%)	68 (34.9%)
Small Schools*	19	9 (47.4%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (15.8%)	4 (21.1%)	3 (15.8%)
Non Small Schools	1,202	90 (7.5%)	85 (7.1%)	183 (15.2%)	294 (24.5%)	550 (45.8%)

\*Small schools have 30 to 99 students enrolled.

NOTE: Change is based on a three-year average (i.e., current graduation rate minus three-year average).

### District Graduation Rate Indicator Performance Categories for Student Group

Student Groups	Total*	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
All Districts	515	70 (13.6%)	122 (23.7%)	106 (20.6%)	81 (15.7%)	136 (26.4%)
African American	160	46 (8.9%)	40 (7.8%)	28 (5.4%)	25 (4.9%)	21 (4.1%)
Asian	174	3 (0.6%)	16 (3.1%)	24 (4.7%)	31 (6.0%)	100 (19.4%)
Filipino	105	2 (0.4%)	10 (1.9%)	14 (2.7%)	13 (2.5%)	66 (12.8%)
Hispanic/Latino	431	80 (15.5%)	111 (21.6%)	82 (15.9%)	73 (14.2%)	85 (16.5%)
Native American	13	4 (0.8%)	2 (0.4%)	3 (0.6%)	2 (0.4%)	2 (0.4%)
Pacific Islander	17	4 (0.8%)	6 (1.2%)	1 (0.2%)	5 (1.0%)	1 (0.2%)
Two or More Races	93	8 (1.6%)	23 (4.5%)	17 (3.3%)	13 (2.5%)	32 (6.2%)
White	372	48 (9.3%)	74 (14.4%)	90 (17.5%)	51 (9.9%)	109 (21.2%)
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	492	106 (20.6%)	135 (26.2%)	83 (16.1%)	82 (15.9%)	86 (16.7%)
English Learners	308	73 (14.2%)	78 (15.1%)	75 (14.6%)	56 (10.9%)	26 (5.0%)
Students with Disabilities	268	133 (25.8%)	65 (12.6%)	44 (8.5%)	16 (3.1%)	10 (1.9%)

\*Total = Number of districts with 30 or more students at the schoolwide level and student group level.

For all percentages calculated above, the total number of districts (515) was used for the denominator.



### School Graduation Rate Indicator Performance Categories for Student Groups

Student Groups	Total*	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
All Schools	1,221	99 (8.1%)	85 (7.0%)	186 (15.2%)	298 (24.4%)	553 (45.3%)
African American	249	31 (2.5%)	34 (2.8%)	47 (3.9)	71 (5.8%)	66 (5.4%)
Asian	324	6 (0.5%)	19 (1.6%)	36 (2.9%)	33 (2.7%)	230 (18.8%)
Filipino	117	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.2%)	13 (1.1%)	18 (1.5%)	81 (6.6%)
Hispanic/Latino	1,017	87 (7.1%)	98 (8.0%)	170 (13.9%)	244 (20.0%)	418 (34.2%)
Native American	5	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.2%)
Pacific Islander	1	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Two or More Races	54	3 (0.2%)	7 (0.6%)	9 (0.7%)	5 (0.4%)	30 (2.5%)
White	764	50 (4.1%)	51 (4.2%)	103 (8.4%)	126 (10.3%)	434 (35.5%)
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	1,133	103 (8.4%)	128 (10.5%)	192 (15.6%)	307 (25.1%)	403 (33.0%)
English learners	710	131 (10.7%)	83 (6.8%)	173 (14.2%)	149 (12.2%)	176 (14.4%)
Students with Disabilities	648	223 (18.3%)	116 (9.5%)	172 (14.1%)	78 (6.4%)	59 (4.8%)

\*Total = Number of schools with 30 or more students at the schoolwide level and student group level.

For all percentages calculated above, the total number of schools (1,221) was used for the denominator.