



TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

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

| Level | Change | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| | 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 |



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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 | |
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| 60 | 93.5240 | |
| 65 | 94.2000 | |
| 70 | 94.8020 | |
| 72 | 95.0000 | |
| 75 | 95.3500 | Very High |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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.