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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 15, 2023

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Implementation of the Local, State and Federal Accountability and Continuous Improvement System: Local Control Funding Formula Eligibility for Differentiated Assistance for Districts, County Offices of Education, and Charter Schools

## Summary of Key Issues

In conjunction with the release of the California School Dashboard (Dashboard) the California Department of Education (CDE) is providing this update to the State Board of Education (SBE) on local educational agencies (LEAs), which are defined as districts, county offices of education (COEs), and charter schools, eligible for differentiated assistance. This is a requirement under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the determinations are based on their performance on the 2023 Dashboard for districts and COEs and the 2023 and 2022 Dashboards for charter schools.

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2023 differentiated assistance eligibility criteria for districts, COEs, and charter schools. Charter schools are returning to differentiated assistance determinations for the first time since 2019 and their eligibility criteria have changed in accordance with new statutory requirements. The memorandum also includes the number of student groups meeting the state indicator criteria, geographic distribution, and student group performance. Additionally, this memorandum includes information on LEAs who meet the criteria under California *Education Code* (*EC*) sections 52072 and 52072.5.

### Background

California’s public-school accountability system is designed to reinforce the expectation that every school and LEA can improve while also ensuring additional support is provided to LEAs that need it. It also intentionally focuses on assisting the receiving LEA to build the necessary capacity to improve student outcomes. The 2023 Dashboard reflects a full return of California’s accountability system with the reporting of Status (current year data), Change (the difference from prior year data), and performance levels (or colors) for all state indicators except for the College/Career Indicator (CCI) which will report on status only in 2023.

Under the LCFF, LEAs are eligible for differentiated assistance based on their performance on the Dashboard which is available at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>. Differentiated assistance is intended not only to help the LEA address the underlying causes that led to its eligibility for assistance, but also to strengthen the LEA’s overall ability to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and programs and adjust, as appropriate, to improve student outcomes.

#### Legislative Updates

Senate Bill114 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2023) updated the support determinations under LCFF as follows:

* Beginning in 2023:
	+ Two-year LCFF support cycle for districts and COEs (*Education Code* sections 52071 and 52071.5)
	+ Release of the Dashboard on or before December 15, 2023 (*EC* Section 52064.5)
* Beginning in 2024:
	+ LEAs will be eligible for differentiated assistance if they do not certify their California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) data submissions (*EC* 52071)
	+ Long-Term English Learners (LTELs) will be included as a student group on the Dashboard, and therefore will be used in LCFF assistance determinations (*EC* Section 52052)
	+ Release of the Dashboard on or before December 1, 2024 (*EC* Section 52064.5)

Additionally, charter schools are returning to differentiated assistance determinations for the first time since 2019 and their eligibility criteria have changed in accordance with new statutory requirements, pursuant to Senate Bill 1371(Chapter 370, Statues of 2020), which amended *EC* Section 47607.3. Charter schools eligible for differentiated assistance will receive support from the COE in which they are located.

#### Differentiated Assistance Eligibility Methods

Eligibility for differentiated assistance is based on either:

1. Student group performance in two or more LCFF state priority areas (**Method 1**),
2. Performance on local indicators in two or more priority areas (**Method 2**), or,
3. A combination of student group and local indicator performance in two or more priority areas (**Method 3**).

Districts, charter schools, and COEs can be eligible for assistance based on both Method 1 and 2. Those that do not meet the Method 1 – State Indicators Only or Method 2 – Local Indicators Only criteria are then examined to determine if they met the Method 3 – Combination of State and Local Indicators criteria. Note: Two years of data is required to evaluate charter school eligibility.

## Student Groups Used for Differentiated Assistance Determinations

Table 1 provides student groups used in LCFF differentiated assistance determinations and the corresponding abbreviation.

#### Table 1: Student Group Abbreviations and Descriptions

| **Student Group****Abbreviation** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| AA | African American |
| AI | American Indian |
| AS | Asian |
| EL | English Learners |
| FI | Filipino |
| FOS | Foster |
| HI | Hispanic |
| HOM | Homeless |
| PI | Pacific Islander |
| SED | Socioeconomically Disadvantaged |
| SWD | Students with Disabilities |
| TOM | Two or More Races |
| WI | White |

### 2023 Differentiated Assistance Eligibility Criteria for Districts and COEs

Under the LCFF statutes, districts and COEs are eligible for differentiated assistance based on:

* Student group performance in two or more LCFF state priority areas (Method 1) on the current Dashboard, or
* Performance on local indicators in two or more priority areas (Method 2) on the current Dashboard, or
* A combination of student group performance in one state priority area and local indicator performance in one different priority area (Method 3) on the current Dashboard.

Districts and COEs that do not meet these criteria will be eligible for general assistance.

Please note that, beginning in 2023, while differentiated assistance determinations for districts and COEs are made annually, those districts and COEs that are eligible for differentiated assistance will receive support for two years.

Districts or COEs with at least one student group meeting the following performance criteria in at least two LCFF Priority Areas (see Table 2) are eligible for differentiated assistance. Table 2 provides the 2023 Differentiated Assistance Criteria by LCFF State Priority Area.

#### Table 2: Local Control Funding Formula Priority Areas for Districts and County Offices of Education

| **LCFF State Priority Areas 1–5** | **LCFF State Priority Areas 6–10** |
| --- | --- |
| ***Basics (Priority 1)**** *Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator
 | ***School Climate (Priority 6)**** *Red* on Suspension Rate Indicator, **or**
* *Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator
 |
| ***Implementation of State Academic Standards (Priority 2)**** *Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator
 | ***Access to a Broad Course of Study (Priority 7)**** *Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator
 |
| ***Parent Engagement (Priority 3)**** *Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator
 | ***Outcomes in a Broad Course of Study (Priority 8)**** *Very Low* on College/Career Indicator (CCI)
 |
| ***Pupil Achievement (Priority 4)**** *Red* on both English language arts (ELA) and math tests, **or**
* *Red* on English language arts or math test **and** *Orange* on the other test
* Red on English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) (English Learner Student Group Only)
 | ***Coordination of Services for Expelled Pupils – COEs Only (Priority 9)**** *Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator
 |
| ***Pupil Engagement (Priority 5)**** *Red* on Graduation Rate Indicator, **or**
* *Red* on Chronic Absence Indicator
 | ***Coordination of Services for Foster Youth—COEs Only (Priority 10)****Not Met for Two or More Years* on Local Performance Indicator |

### 2023 Differentiated Assistance Eligibility Criteria for Charter Schools

As previously mentioned, charter schools are returning to differentiated assistance determinations for the first time since 2019 and their eligibility criteria have changed in accordance with new statutory requirements. Charter schools eligible for differentiated assistance will receive support from the COE in which they are located. COE authorized charter schools eligible for differentiated assistance will receive support from their COEs Geographic Lead agency. The performance criteria for charter schools are the same as for districts and COEs with the exception that charter schools must meet the criteria, based on any of the three methods, in both 2023 and 2022. Therefore, results from the 2023 and 2022 Dashboards are used in differentiated assistance determinations for charter schools only. Differentiated assistance determinations for charter schools are made annually and will be on a one-year support cycle.

Please note that regarding the 2022 Dashboard:

* Local indicators were **not** available for determinations on the 2022 Dashboard
* In place of colors, Status levels were used for the state indicators on the 2022 Dashboard from Priority Areas 4, 5, and 6 (see Table 3)

#### Table 3: 2022 Differentiated Assistance Criteria by LCFF State Priority Area

| **LCFF State Priority Area** | **State Indicators Criteria** |
| --- | --- |
| Pupil Achievement (Priority 4) | * **Very Low** Status on both the ELA and Mathematics Academic Indicator; or
* **Very Low** Status on the English Learner Progress Indicator
 |
| Pupil Engagement (Priority 5) | * **Very Low** Status on the Graduation Rate Indicator; or
* **Very High** Status on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator
 |
| School Climate (Priority 6) | * **Very High** Status on the Suspension Rate Indicator
 |

#### Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Under EC sections 2575.2 and 2575.3, COEs receive funding to assist school districts and charter schools identified for DA as part of their principal apportionment. Commencing with fiscal year 2023–24, COEs will receive base funding of $300,000, regardless of the number of districts eligible for differentiated assistance in the county. COEs will receive additional funding based on the specific districts and charter schools identified for differentiated assistance.

For districts, the amount is based on the size and number of districts identified for differentiated assistance (EC 2575.2[b]). For each year a school district is identified for differentiated assistance the COE funding allowances will be calculated based on Table 4. A three-year average of the allowances is calculated based on the number and size of districts is allocated to the COE.

For each year a charter school is identified for differentiated assistance, an allowance of $100,000 multiplied by the number of charter schools in the county will be calculated for the COE. For charter schools authorized by a COE, the $100,000 allowance will be allocated to the COE that is a geographic lead of the region. In FY 2023–24 the allowance will be a two-year total allowance average, and in FY 2024–25 and forward, the allowance will be a three-year total average allowance.

Details of the funding calculation can be found on the Funding Rates and Information webpage at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/pa2324rates.asp>.

#### Table 4: Funding for County Offices of Education to Provide Support to Districts

| **Entitlement** | **Multiplier** | **School District Prior Year Annual Average Daily Attendance** | **AllowancePursuant to *EC* Sections2575.2 and 2575.3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base | Per County | N/A | $300,000 |
| Small District | Per District | 1 to 2,499 | $100,000 |
| Medium District | Per District | 2,500 to 9,999 | $200,000 |
| Large District | Per District | 10,000 or more | $300,000 |
| Funding Allowance | Per Eligible Charter in County | N/A | $100,000 |

Note: For the 2018–19 fiscal year to the 2022–23 fiscal year, inclusive, the base amount apportioned pursuant to *EC* Section 2575 was $200,000.

#### Overview of the 2023 Differentiated Assistance Determinations Results

The 2023 Dashboard provides communities with transparent and meaningful information about performance from the 2022–23 academic year of districts, schools, county offices of education through specific state indicators:

* Academic Performance (ELA and Mathematics)
* English Learner Progress
* Chronic Absenteeism
* Graduation Rate
* Suspension Rate
* College/Career

Additionally, local indicators are available based on information collected by districts, county offices of education, and charter schools.

To ensure that parents, community members, and educators are well-informed of the information on the 2023 Dashboard, the CDE developed the following resources which are available on the Dashboard Communications Toolkit webpage at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardtoolkit.asp>:

* Flyers for Parents (and Those New to the Dashboard)
* Flyers for Educators
* On-Demand Recordings and Notetaking Guide
* Talking Points
* Additional Resources

### District and County Office of Education Eligibility for Differentiated Assistance

Based on the criteria in Table 2 (results of the state and local indicators on the 2023 Dashboard), **466** districts and COEs are eligible for differentiated assistance under LCFF. This is a decrease from 2022, in which approximately 617 or 62.1 percent of all COEs/Districts were eligible for differentiated assistance. In 2023, 219 or 36 percent of the COEs/Districts eligible for differentiated assistance in 2022 made significant improvements and are no longer eligible for differentiated assistance. An additional 68 new districts and COEs are eligible for assistance in 2023. The data file containing the assistance status for districts and COEs is available on the Local Control Funding Formula web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>.

Table 5 provides a summary of the number of districts and COEs that are eligible under Method 1, 2, or 3.

#### Table 5: Districts and County Offices of Education Eligible to Receive Differentiated Assistance by Method

| **Method** | **Number of Districts/COEs Eligible for Differentiated Assistance** |
| --- | --- |
| Method 1 | 453 |
| Method 2 | 19 |
| Method 3 | 2 |

Please note that 8 of the 19 districts/COEs eligible for Method 1 are also eligible for Method 2.

Table 6 provides the number of districts and COEs with the number of student groups that met the Method 1 criteria (e.g., two districts/COEs are eligible based on nine student groups meeting the Method 1 criteria for differentiated assistance).

#### Table 6: Districts and County Offices of Education Eligible to Receive Differentiated Assistance by Student Group

| **# of Student Groups that Met the State Indicator Criteria** | **Number of Districts/COEs in 2023 that Met Method 1** |
| --- | --- |
| 9 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 |
| 7 | 11 |
| 6 | 16 |
| 5 | 20 |
| 4 | 47 |
| 3 | 64 |
| 2 | 111 |
| 1 | 176 |

The top three student groups meeting the LCFF priority area criteria in the highest frequency are:

* Students with Disabilities
* Homeless
* English Learners

### Geographic Distribution of Districts and County Offices of Education Eligible for Differentiated Assistance

The districts and COEs that are eligible for differentiated assistance are geographically diverse and are located in 56 of California’s 58 counties. Table 7 shows, for each county, the number of districts eligible to receive differentiated assistance based on the criteria outlined above.

In Table 7, under the header “Number of Entities,” two numbers are provided. The first number indicates how many districts and COEs in the county are eligible for differentiated support. The second number, in parentheses, indicates how many districts and COEs are in the county (note: COEs are included in both counts). Counties with an asterisk are single district counties. Both the county and district receive a Dashboard report because each entity serves a different set of schools. Therefore, both the county and district may be eligible for differentiated support and, conversely, one may be eligible and the other may not.

#### Table 7: Number of Districts and County Offices of Education Eligible to Receive Differentiated Assistance, by County

| **County Name** | **Number of Entities** | **County Name** | **Number of Entities** | **County Name** | **Number of Entities** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Alameda | 9 (19) | Marin | 11 (18) | San Mateo | 12 (24) |
| Alpine\* | 0 (2) | Mariposa\* | 1 (2) | Santa Barbara | 10 (21) |
| Amador\* | 1 (2) | Mendocino | 7 (13) | Santa Clara | 14 (32) |
| Butte | 7 (14) | Merced | 6 (21) | Santa Cruz | 4 (12) |
| Calaveras | 3 (5) | Modoc | 1 (4) | Shasta | 13 (25) |
| Colusa | 2 (5) | Mono | 0 (3) | Sierra\* | 1 (2) |
| Contra Costa | 7 (19) | Monterey | 10 (25) | Siskiyou | 5 (25) |
| Del Norte | 1 (2) | Napa | 1 (6) | Solano | 6 (7) |
| El Dorado | 8 (16) | Nevada | 4 (10) | Sonoma | 15 (39) |
| Fresno | 16 (32) | Orange | 15 (29) | Stanislaus | 17 (26) |
| Glenn | 1 (9) | Placer | 6 (16) | Sutter | 2 (13) |
| Humboldt | 15 (32) | Plumas | 1 (2) | Tehama | 3 (14) |
| Imperial | 10 (17) | Riverside | 21 (24) | Trinity | 1 (10) |
| Inyo | 2 (7) | Sacramento | 8 (14) | Tulare | 12 (44) |
| Kern | 23 (47) | San Benito | 3 (12) | Tuolumne | 3 (12) |
| Kings | 8 (12) | San Bernardino | 25 (34) | Ventura | 8 (20) |
| Lake | 5 (7) | San Diego | 23 (44) | Yolo | 5 (6) |
| Lassen | 4 (11) | San Francisco\* | 2 (2) | Yuba | 1 (6) |
| Los Angeles | 46 (80) | San Joaquin | 11 (15) | N/A | N/A |
| Madera | 6 (10) | San Luis Obispo | 4 (11) | N/A | N/A |

### Student Group Distribution of Districts and County Offices of Education Eligible for Differentiated Assistance

Table 8 provides the number of districts and COEs that were eligible for differentiated assistance based on student group performance.

#### Table 8: Priority Area Combinations That Districts and County Offices of Education Met (By Student Group) to be Eligible for Differentiated Assistance

| **Methodology and Priority Area Numbers** | **AA** | **AI** | **AS** | **EL** | **FI** | **FOS** | **HI** | **HOM** | **PI** | **SED** | **SWD** | **TOM** | **WH** | **Totals by Priority Area** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Method 1: 4,5,6 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 0 | 3 | 71 |
| Method 1: 4,5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 18 | 21 | 28 | 2 | 18 | 44 | 5 | 2 | 189 |
| Method 1: 5,6 | 23 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 13 | 26 | 6 | 27 | 24 | 10 | 20 | 182 |
| Method 1: 4,6 | 47 | 13 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 45 | 25 | 48 | 3 | 34 | 72 | 10 | 5 | 339 |
| Method 1: 4,8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 81 |
| Method 1: 5,8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 0 | 9 | 19 | 1 | 3 | 71 |
| Method 1: 6,8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Method 1: 4,5,8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 47 |
| Method 1: 4,6,8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Method 1: 5,6,8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| Method 1: 4,5,6,8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 34 |
| **Total Student Groups Meeting Criteria** | **92** | **27** | **0** | **165** | **0** | **132** | **82** | **173** | **12** | **104** | **268** | **26** | **36** | **1,117** |

### Eligibility of LEAs Meeting Criteria Under *EC* Sections 52072 and 52072.5

Additionally, the 2023 LCFF COE/District Assistance Status Spreadsheet includes LEAs that meet the criteria set forth in *EC* sections 52072 (b)(1) for districts and 52072.5 (b)(1) for COEs. This information is available on the LCFF web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>. The criteria are activated when three or more pupil subgroups meet the differentiated assistance criteria for multiple LCFF priorities in three out of four consecutive years (or if an LEA has less than three student groups, all of the student groups have met the differentiated assistance criteria for three out of four consecutive years). For LEAs meeting this criteria, the California Collaborative for Education Excellence (CCEE) determines if assistance from CCEE is necessary for specialized support. This type of differentiated assistance is commonly referred to as Direct Technical Assistance as part of level 2 targeted technical assistance. More information about the Direct Technical Assistance is available on the CCEE website at <https://ccee-ca.org/direct-technical-assistance/>.

### Charter School Eligibility for Differentiated Assistance

Based on the state indicator the results from the 2022 and 2023 Dashboards and the local indicator results from the 2023 Dashboard, a total of **203** charter schools are eligible to receive differentiated assistance in 2023.

Across the 2022 and 2023 Dashboards, the top three student groups meeting the LCFF priority area criteria in the highest frequency for charter schools are:

* Students with Disabilities
* Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
* English Learners

### Geographic Distribution of Charters Schools Eligible for Differentiated Assistance

In Table 9 under the header “Number of Charter Schools,” two numbers are provided. The first number indicates how many charter schools in the county are eligible for differentiated support. The second number, in parentheses, indicates how many charter schools are in the county.

#### Table 9: Number of Charter Schools Eligible to Receive Differentiated Assistance, by County

| **County Name** | **Number of Charter Schools** | **County Name** | **Number of Charter Schools** | **County Name** | **Number of Charter Schools** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Alameda | 11 (51) | Marin | 0 (3) | San Mateo | 2 (14) |
| Alpine | 0 (0) | Mariposa | 0 (1) | Santa Barbara | 1 (15) |
| Amador | 0 (0) | Mendocino | 0 (11) | Santa Clara | 7 (60) |
| Butte | 1 (18) | Merced | 0 (3) | Santa Cruz | 1 (14) |
| Calaveras | 0 (1) | Modoc | 0 (0) | Shasta | 0 (15) |
| Colusa | 0 (0) | Mono | 0 (1) | Siskiyou | 0 (2) |
| Contra Costa | 9 (23) | Monterey | 0 (8) | Siera | 0 (0) |
| Del Norte | 1 (2) | Napa | 0 (1) | Solano | 5 (12) |
| El Dorado | 0 (13) | Nevada | 3 (13) | Sonoma | 7 (52) |
| Fresno | 6 (36) | Orange | 3 (36) | Stanislaus | 2 (25) |
| Glenn | 0 (4) | Placer | 0 (16) | Sutter | 0 (8) |
| Humboldt | 0 (15) | Plumas | 0 (1) | Tehama | 0 (4) |
| Imperial | 1 (3) | Riverside | 7 (30) | Trinity | 0 (1) |
| Inyo | 3 (3) | Sacramento | 15 (51) | Tulare | 4 (21) |
| Kern | 1 (15) | San Benito | 0 (1) | Tuolumne | 0 (2) |
| Kings | 1 (13) | San Bernardino | 13 (51) | Ventura | 1 (12) |
| Lake | 0 (2) | San Diego | 18 (129) | Yolo | 0 (7) |
| Lassen | 0 (3) | San Francisco | 6 (14) | Yuba | 0 (6) |
| Los Angeles | 63 (366) | San Joaquin | 11 (49) | N/A | N/A |
| Madera | 0 (11) | San Luis Obispo | 0 (3) | N/A | N/A |