California Department of Education
Executive Office
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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 8, 2017

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

**FROM:** TOM TORLAKSON, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** California School Dashboard: Fall 2017 Dashboard Release and Update on the Ongoing Development of the Growth Model

## Summary of Key Issues

The Fall 2017 Dashboard was publicly released on December 7, 2017, and is available on the California School Dashboard Web site at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>. This Information Memorandum highlights activities and resources developed to support the local educational agency (LEA) private preview and public release of the California School Dashboard (Dashboard). It also provides a progress update on the growth model for inclusion in the Academic Indicator for the Fall 2018 Dashboard.

The California School Dashboard Web site shows how LEAs and schools are performing on the state and local indicators approved by the State Board of Education for California’s new accountability system. The Dashboard was field-tested in spring 2017 and is now fully operational, although design improvements will continue over the coming months based on user feedback. In preparation for the public release of the Fall 2017 Dashboard, a series of Webinars was held for LEAs, and several new resources were developed for the public.

## Webinars on the Fall 2017 Dashboard

Beginning in November 2017, the state indicators were released for an LEA private preview on a rolling basis. The preview was designed to provide an opportunity for LEAs to review their data and the system functionality enhancements prior to the public release.

In preparation for the public release of the Dashboard, the California Department of Education (CDE) hosted a series of Webinars, which began on October 26 with a general introduction to the Dashboard and the Local Indicators and will culminate with a final Webinar on December 13, which will provide information on how to use the new data in the Local Control and Accountability Plan process. The topics covered in the Webinars include:

* Webinar 1: Introduction to the Dashboard and Local Indicators
* Webinar 2: College/Career and the Graduation Rate Indicators
* Webinar 3: Suspension Rate and the English Learner Progress Indicators
* Webinar 4: System of Support
* Webinar 5: Academic and Chronic Absenteeism Indicators
* Webinar 6: Using the Dashboard in the Local Control and Accountability Plan Process

The first five Webinars were well attended, with an average of 300 participants per Webinar. Webinar 6 will be held on December 13, 2017.

The slides for these Webinars are available on the CDE Fall 2017 Dashboard Webinar Series Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/fall2017webinars.asp>.

## Resources to Support the Fall 2017 Dashboard Release

Several new resources have been developed to support the release of the Fall 2017 Dashboard and are posted on the CDE California Accountability Model & School Dashboard Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/>. These include videos, a parent guide, in-depth modules on each of the state indicators, communication tools for LEAs, and several new flyers, including:

* Getting to Know the California School Dashboard (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dashboardflyer.pdf>)
* Dashboard Quick Reference Guide (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dashboardfaststart.pdf>)
* Fall 2017 Dashboard Updates (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dashboardupdatesflyer.pdf>)
* Data Used for Fall 2017 Dashboard (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/statuschangedataf2017.pdf>)
* How Dashboard Colors Are Determined (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/5X5dashboardflyer.pdf>)
* The English Learner Student Group (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/eldashboardflyer.pdf>)
* The College/Career Indicator (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/ccidashboardflyer.pdf>)
* The Academic Indicator (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/acadashboardflyer.pdf>)
* Dashboard Alternative School Status Program (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dassdashboardflyer.pdf>)

The Fall 2017 Dashboard Technical Guide provides detailed information on the state and local indicators and highlights the changes that have been approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) since the Spring 2017 Dashboard release. The Technical Guide also includes an update on the business rules for the suspension rate indicator, whereby the unified school district cut scores and five-by-five color tables are applied to schools that serve students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The Technical Guide is available on the CDE California Accountability Model & School Dashboard Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/>.

Because this is the first full operative year for the Dashboard, performance data from the Fall 2017 release were used to determine school district eligibility for differentiated assistance. A second December 2017 SBE Memorandum, entitled “California School Dashboard: Local Educational Agencies Identified for Support Under the Local Control Funding Formula,” provides student group performance data for schools districts identified for differentiated assistance. It is posted on the December 2017 Information Memorandum Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/infomemodec2017.asp>.

## Update on the Growth Model for Inclusion in the Academic Indicator

In September 2016, the SBE approved the new accountability system that measures both status and change for all state indicators. As part of the ongoing development of the accountability system, the CDE has been working on a student-level growth model as the change component for the Academic Indicator.

The CDE provided an update to the SBE on the following occasions beginning in February 2016:

* Update on the growth model and discussed the development of the growth model (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/jan17item02.doc>)
* Update on possible student-growth models to communicate Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-dsib-amard-jun16item01.doc>)
* Overview of student-level growth models for Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-dsib-amard-feb16item01.doc>)

Specifically, in January 2017, the SBE discussed the characteristics desired for growth reporting and suggested a set of criteria to be applied in evaluating the various types of growth models (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/jan17item02.doc>). Based on these selection criteria, three growth models are currently being explored.

1. “Change-in-distance-to-met” measures absolute growth of each student from the prior year to the current year using Distance from Level 3 as the measurement threshold.
2. “Conditional percentile rank of the gain” ranks the growth of students who are grouped together as a result of having the same prior year test scores, in the same subject and grade.
3. “Residual gain” is the difference between a student’s predicted test score and actual test score. Note: the predicted score is based on both prior English language arts and mathematics test scores, as well as the scores of all other students in the same grade.

The CDE’s assessment contractor, Educational Testing Service, completed simulations for these growth models and is currently producing a report that provides an analyses of the three models. The CDE will meet with educational stakeholder groups in February 2018 to review these results and solicit feedback on the growth models under consideration.

## Attachment(s)

None.