



2012–13 Accountability Progress Reporting System

2012–13 Academic Performance Index Reports

Information Guide

May 2013

**Prepared by the
California Department of Education**

Available online at:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>

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Preface

This information guide provides technical information about the Academic Performance Index (API) reports for the 2012–13 reporting cycle. The guide is intended for accountability coordinators at local educational agencies (LEAs) to use in administering their academic accountability programs to meet the requirements of California’s Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) of 1999.

The California Department of Education (CDE) provides API reports as part of its Accountability Progress Reporting (APR) system. The APR system provides an integrated approach to reporting results for state and federal accountability requirements and includes information about the state, LEAs, schools (including charter schools), and numerically significant student groups.

2012–13 APR System

State Accountability Requirements (Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999)	Federal Accountability Requirements (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2012 Base API Reports (release May 2013) ■ 2013 Growth API Reports (release September 2013) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2013 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports (release September 2013) ■ 2013–14 Program Improvement (PI) Reports (release September 2013)

This guide is not intended to serve as a substitute for state and federal laws or regulations or to detail all of an accountability coordinator’s responsibilities in applying accountability requirements to an LEA or a school. The guide should be used in conjunction with academic accountability information provided through the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/> and from e-mail and correspondence disseminated by the CDE to accountability coordinators. For information about being added to the CDE accountability coordinators listing, please visit the Accountability Listserv Web page at <http://www.accountabilityinfo.org/> or contact the Academic Accountability Unit (AAU) at 916-319-0863 or by e-mail at aau@cde.ca.gov.

This guide is produced by the AAU of the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division (AMARD) of the CDE. Questions about API or AYP calculations should be addressed to the AAU at the phone number or e-mail address listed above. Questions about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), PI determinations, and AYP appeals should be addressed to the Evaluation, Research, and Analysis (ERA) Unit by phone at 916-322-3245 or by e-mail at evaluation@cde.ca.gov.

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Highlights of the 2012–13 API Reports

The 2012 Base API reports, released in May 2013, and the 2013 Growth API reports, scheduled for release in the fall of 2013, comprise the 2012–13 API reporting cycle. The following changes impact this year's reporting cycle:

■ **Exclusion of the Writing Portion of the CST in ELA**

Beginning in 2013, the writing portion of the English-language arts (ELA) tests for grades four and seven will be reported separately from the ELA scale scores for the California Standards Test (CST) and California Modified Assessment (CMA). This is to allow for faster turn-around of student performance data on the CSTs and CMA which is a priority of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) as well as the State Board of Education (SBE). As a result, the writing portion will no longer be included in the calculation of the API. To allow for appropriate comparisons to be made between 2012 Base and the 2013 Growth APIs, the 2012 ELA writing scores were removed for the production of the 2012 Base API.

■ **Elimination of Adjustments to Grades Eight and Nine General Mathematics Results**

In March 2013, the SBE eliminated the lowering of performance levels of students in grade eight or nine who take the CST in General Mathematics. In prior years, the CST in General Mathematics results for any student in grade eight or nine were adjusted due to the difference in grade-level standards. This was done by lowering the API credit by one performance level for a grade eight student record and two performance levels for a grade nine student record. However, based on the SBE decision, starting with the 2012 Base API, performance levels will not be lowered for these student records. The earned score will be included in the API without an adjustment.

■ **Use of CALPADS for Demographic Data**

Starting with the 2012–13 reporting cycle, all demographic data (e.g., race/ethnicity, students with disabilities (SWD) status, English learner (EL) status, eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), parent education level, etc.) will be taken from the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System Operational Data Store (CALPADS ODS). In prior years, these data were obtained from the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) student answer document.

For the calculation of the 2012 Base API, if the statewide student identifier (SSID) on the STAR or California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) student answer document was missing or did not match a student record in CALPADS ODS, the demographic data on the student answer document was used.

For the calculation of the 2013 Growth API, if the SSID on the STAR or CAHSEE student answer document was missing or did not match a student record in CALPADS ODS, those students' race/ethnicity will be reported as "Two or More Races." In addition, these students will not be included in any of the special programs (i.e., SWD, EL, or socioeconomically disadvantaged).

■ Updates to Processing Continuous Enrollment

Starting with the 2011–12 accountability reporting cycle, the CDE began using enrollment and exit data from the CALPADS ODS to determine which students were continuously enrolled. In instances where the SSID on the STAR or CAHSEE student answer document were missing or did not match a student record in CALPADS ODS, continuous enrollment information from the STAR or CAHSEE student answer document (California Basic Educational Data System [CBEDS] field) was used.

Starting with the 2013 assessments, the STAR and CAHSEE student answer document no longer contains the CBEDS field. Thus, for the 2012–13 accountability reporting cycle, continuous enrollment will be determined solely from CALPADS ODS data. Students will be considered as continuously enrolled if:

- SSIDs on the STAR or CAHSEE student answer documents are missing, **or**
- SSIDs on the STAR or CAHSEE student answer documents do not match against the SSIDs in CALPADS, **or**
- Data retrieved from the CALPADS ODS reflected enrollment from Fall Census Day (first Wednesday in October) to the first day of testing without a gap in enrollment of more than 30 consecutive calendar days

Details regarding the business rules for determining continuous enrollment can be found on the CDE Determining Students Who Are Continuously Enrolled Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/ceproc.asp>.

■ API Targets Increase for 2013 AYP

The API is not only used in meeting state requirements under the PSAA, as described in this guide, but it is also used in meeting one of the federal AYP requirements under the ESEA. The AYP targets will increase in 2013. The API target under 2013 AYP requirements will be a 2013 Growth API of at least 770 or growth in the API of at least one point from 2012 to 2013. AYP targets for all years are displayed on pages 19 through 21 of the *2012 Adequate Yearly Progress Report Information Guide, September 2012* on the CDE AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

■ **Future Integration of Additional Indicators into the High School API**

Based on the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1458, California *Education Code (EC)* sections 52052(a)(3)(F)(i) and 52052(a)(3)(H) requires that by 2015–16, the results of assessments shall constitute no more than 60 percent of the high school API and that the remaining 40 percent should encompass other indicators such as graduation data and pupil preparedness for college and career. The methodologies for integrating new indicators are continually being discussed with the PSAA Advisory Committee. Suggestions and feedback regarding the incorporation of graduation data, college and career measures, and other new indicators are being captured by AMARD through various venues: regional meetings during spring 2013; an online survey (accessible on the API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/> when available); and through e-mails sent to api@cde.ca.gov. It is anticipated that feedback will be collected through 2013.

■ **Future Integration of Additional Indicators into the Middle School API**

The integration of grade eight and nine dropout rates as required by California *EC* sections 52052(a)(4)(A) and (B) and 52052.1(a)(3) are rescheduled for incorporation in a future reporting cycle.

What is the API?

The API is a single number, ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1000, which reflects a school's, an LEA's, or a student group's performance level, based on the results of statewide testing. Its purpose is to measure the academic performance and growth of schools. The API was established by the PSAA, a landmark state law passed in 1999 that created a new academic accountability system for kindergarten through grade twelve public education in California.

The API is calculated by converting a student's performance on statewide assessments across multiple content areas into points on the API scale. These points are then averaged across all students and all tests. The result is the API. An API is calculated for schools, LEAs, and for each student group with 11 or more valid scores at a school or an LEA.

The key features of the API include the following:

- The API is based on an improvement model. The assessment results from one year are compared to assessment results from the prior year to measure improvement. Each school has an annual target, and all numerically significant student groups at a school also have targets.
- The API requires student group accountability to address the achievement gaps that exist between traditionally higher- and lower-scoring student groups.
- The API is a cross-sectional look at student achievement. It does not track individual student progress across years but rather compares snapshots of school or LEA level achievement results from one year to the next.
- The API is used to rank schools. A school is compared to other schools statewide and to 100 other schools that have similar opportunities and challenges.
- The API is currently a school-based requirement only under state law. However, API reports are provided for LEAs in order to meet federal requirements under ESEA.

Assessment Results Used in the API

The information that forms the basis for calculating the API comes from the results of the STAR Program and the CAHSEE. The PSAA requires that assessment results constitute at least 60 percent of the API. More information about these testing programs is located on the CDE Testing and Accountability Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/>. The chart on the next page shows the assessment results that are used in API calculations.

Assessment Results Used in the API 2012–13

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

California Standards Tests (CSTs)

- California English-language arts Standards Test (CST in ELA)
Grades two through eleven (writing assessment results in grades four and seven are not included)
- California Mathematics Standards Test (CST in mathematics)
Grades two through seven and grades eight through eleven for the following course-specific tests:
 - General mathematics (grades eight and nine only)
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry
 - Algebra II
 - Integrated mathematics 1, 2, or 3
 - High School Summative Mathematics Test

Students in grade seven may take the Algebra I test if they completed an Algebra I course.

- California History—social science Standards Test (CST in HSS)
Grade eight
Grade eleven (U.S. history)
Grades nine through eleven (world history)
- California Science Standards Test (CST in science)
Grades five, eight, and ten and grades nine through eleven for the following course-specific tests:
 - Biology/life sciences
 - Earth science
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Integrated/coordinated science 1, 2, 3, or 4

California Modified Assessment (CMA)

- English-language arts
Grades three through eleven
- Mathematics
Grades three through eleven (Algebra I for grades seven through eleven, and Geometry for grades eight through eleven)
- Science
Grades five, eight, and ten

California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)

- English-language arts and mathematics
Grades two through eleven
- Science
Grades five, eight, and ten

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

CAHSEE (administered in February, March, and May [make-ups])

- English-language arts, including a writing assessment, and mathematics
Grade ten, also grade eleven or twelve CAHSEE results are included in the API if the student passed the CAHSEE anytime during the school year.

NOTE: Any grade eleven or twelve student who takes the CAHSEE administered between July through December will have their test results included in the *following* API cycle if the student passed. Continuous enrollment for these test takers span from Fall Census Day of the prior year to the first day of testing without a gap in enrollment of more than 30 consecutive calendar days.

Relative Emphases of Assessments Used in the API

The test results used to calculate a school's API have different relative emphases. The amount of emphasis each content area has in the API for a particular school or LEA (called the content area weights) is determined by statewide test weights and by the number of students taking each type of test. The tables below show the relative emphases of different content areas in the API for the most common grade spans of schools. The first table shows 2012–13 for kindergarten through grade eight (K–8). The second table shows 2012–13 for grades nine through twelve.

2012–13 School Content Area Weights for the Most Common Grade Spans, K–8

Content Area	K–5	6–8	K–8
CST/CMA/CAPA in ELA	56.5%	51.4%	54.2%
CST/CMA/CAPA in Mathematics	37.6%	34.3%	36.1%
CST/CMA/CAPA in Science, Grades 5 and 8	5.9%	7.1%	6.5%
CST in History–Social Science, Grade 8	(Not Applicable)	7.1%	3.2%

2012–13 School Content Area Weights for Grades 9–12

Content Area	9–12
CST/CMA/CAPA in ELA, Grades 9–11	27.1%
CST/CMA/CAPA in Mathematics, Grades 9–11	18.1%
CST/CMA/CAPA in Science, Grades 9–11	22.9%
CST in History–Social Science, Grades 9–11	13.9%
CAHSEE ELA, Grades 10–12	9.0%
CAHSEE Mathematics, Grades 10–12	9.0%

Note: Data in these tables assume an equal number of valid scores at each grade level and no missing data. If some students at a school do not take one or more tests, the indicator weights would be different than those shown above. Also, these tables do not factor in the assignment of 200 rules for grades eight through eleven.

Considerations Regarding Assessment Results

Adjustments are made to the API for statewide assessment results of students who take the tests using modified test administrations.

■ Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications

Students who take exams in the STAR Program and CAHSEE may be provided certain test variations, accommodations, and/or modifications. A description of these varied test administrations are provided in the "Testing Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications" located on the CDE STAR Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/>. Test administration variations and accommodations do not result in changes to API calculations. Modifications, however, do result in changes. Scores for students tested with modifications are assigned 200 (far below basic) in the API calculations. These changes are made to accountability reporting only and do not affect the individual student's score report. The student receives an individual score report with his or her actual score.

■ CAPA in the API

In response to federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Amendments of 1997, and the ESEA, California developed the CAPA, an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the general STAR Program assessments, even with accommodations or modifications. A student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifies whether the student should take the CAPA. Students taking the CAPA work toward achieving selected state academic standards using alternate achievement standards to measure their progress.

The alternate assessment population is made up of a relatively small number of students with significant cognitive disabilities. In California, roughly less than one percent of the total number of students statewide takes the CAPA. Since examiners may adapt the CAPA based on students' instruction mode, accommodations and modifications do not apply to the CAPA. Further information is located on the CDE CAPA Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/capa.asp>.

For API reporting, the CAPA performance level the student receives (advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, or far below basic) is the level that is included in the API calculations. The CAPA is not treated as a separate test for accountability, because the CAPA is an "alternate" to the CSTs. The addition of CAPA into the API does not change the API test weights, and the same basic test weights and calculation rules used for the CST also apply to the CAPA. Also, if a student took a CAPA test, the results are counted in the SWD student group, even if the record shows no valid disability code.

■ CMA in the API

In April 2007, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) enacted regulations for an alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards. The CDE, in response to the federal regulations, developed the CMA, an alternate assessment of the California content standards based on modified achievement standards for students with an IEP who meet the SBE adopted eligibility criteria. The purpose of the CMA is to allow students to demonstrate achievement of the content standards in ELA, mathematics, and science. Further information about CMA participation criteria is located on the CDE CMA Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/cmastar.asp>.

The CMA was administered statewide beginning in 2008 in grades three through five in ELA and mathematics and grade five in science. The SBE approved performance levels for the CMA in grades three through five in November 2008, and the CMA results for these grade levels were included in the API beginning with the 2008 Base API.

In November 2009, the SBE adopted the performance levels for CMA in grades six through eight in ELA, grades six and seven in mathematics, and grade eight in science. CMA results for these grade levels were included in the API beginning with the 2009 Base API.

In March 2011, the SBE adopted performance levels for ELA in grade nine, Algebra I in grades seven through eleven, and science in grade ten. The CMA results for these grade levels were included in the API beginning with the 2010 Base API.

In November 2011, the SBE adopted performance levels for ELA in grades ten and eleven, and Geometry in grades eight to eleven. The CMA results for these grade levels were included in the API beginning with the 2011 Base API which completed the incorporation of the CMAs into the API.

As with CAPA results in API reporting, the performance level a student received on the CMA (far below basic, below basic, basic, proficient, or advanced) was the level that was included in the API calculations. The addition of CMA into the API does not change the API test weights, and the same test weights and calculation rules used for the CST also apply to the CMA. Also, if a student took a CMA test, the results are counted in the SWD student group, even if the record shows no valid disability code.

Base API and Growth API

In order to measure the academic improvement of a school, academic results in the form of the API are compared from year to year. Improvement (or change) in the API is the difference between the Base API and Growth API within a reporting cycle.

Each reporting cycle begins with a Base API. The Base API is calculated using the assessment results of the previous year and the Growth API is calculated using the assessment results of the current year. For example, the 2012 Base API is calculated using results of statewide testing from spring 2012 and the 2013 Growth API is calculated using results of statewide testing from spring 2013. Any changes in the API calculations, such as adding a new assessment, begin with the Base API. Therefore, the calculation methods for the Base API might not be the same across years. However, the Base API and Growth API within a reporting cycle must use the same calculation method. The following charts show the 2012–13 API reporting cycle:

2012 Base API

<p>Schoolwide and Student Group APIs Use spring 2012 test results¹</p> <p>STAR Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–11), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), Geometry (Gr. 8–11) and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) <p>Other Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Targets Statewide Rank Similar Schools Rank</p>
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2013 Growth API

<p>Schoolwide and Student Group APIs Use spring 2013 test results¹</p> <p>STAR Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–11), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), Geometry (Gr. 8–11) and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) <p>Other Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Growth Achieved Whether API Targets Were Met</p>

¹ Grade levels of assessments are 2–11 unless otherwise noted.

The indicators are the same for the Base and Growth APIs, but the 2012 Base includes 2012 assessment results whereas the 2013 Growth includes 2013 assessment results. The 2012 Base API is subtracted from the 2013 Growth API to show how much a school's API changed from 2012 to 2013 (referred to as 2012–13 API growth). This determines whether a school meets its API growth target. The Base API Report includes the Base API, targets, and ranks. The Growth API Report includes the Growth API, growth achieved, and whether or not targets were met.

Comparability and Changes to the API

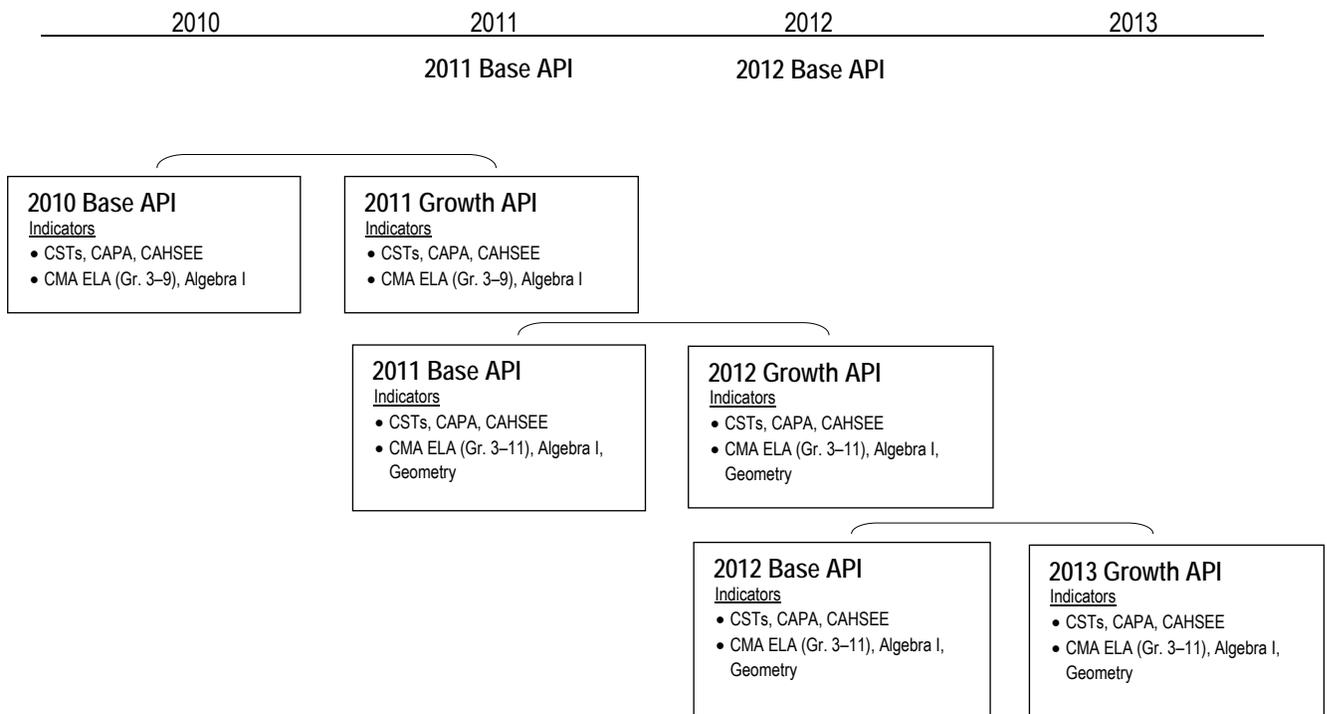
API comparisons must be based on the same tests with the same test weights. If the API indicators and methodology remained the same from year to year, there would be no need for two API reports. However, complication arises in year-to-year comparisons of the API when changes to the API must be made. From one year to the next, assessments may be added or taken away from the set of API indicators, or API rules may change. For example, in the 2012–13 API cycle, performance levels of grade eight and nine results on the CST in General Mathematics were not lowered. Also, the test weights (relative emphasis on each test) or rules for inclusions/exclusions in the API can also change.

Why Two API Reports Are Needed

In order to measure growth as well as incorporate new changes into the API, two API reports are produced. When changes occur in the API, the Base API at the start of a new API cycle is adjusted to reflect the changes. The Base API, including all new indicators and methodological changes, becomes the baseline against which to compare the next year’s Growth API. The Growth API must match the Base API in order to compare the two.

The graphic below illustrates why two API reports are needed. In order to reflect the incorporation of the additional assessments, the Base API is adjusted, and the Growth API for that cycle is calculated in the same way.

Two API Reports to Maintain Comparability and Allow Changes



API Reporting Cycles

An API reporting cycle consists of two components: (1) base information and (2) growth information. The base reports are provided in the spring, and the growth reports are provided in the fall.

Year of Testing

2010

2011

2012

2013

<p>2010 Base API Schoolwide/Student Group APIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11 including life science in Gr. 10), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–9), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), science (Gr. 5 and 8 including life science in Gr. 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8 and 10) • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Targets Statewide Rank Similar Schools Rank</p>	<p>2011 Growth API Schoolwide/Student Group APIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11 including life science in Gr. 10), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–9), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), science (Gr. 5 and 8 including life science in Gr. 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8 and 10) • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Growth Achieved Whether API Targets Were Met</p>		
(May 2011 release)		(August 2011 release)	
<p>2011 Base API Schoolwide/Student Group APIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11 including life science in Gr. 10), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–11), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), Geometry (Gr. 8–11), and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8 and 10) • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Targets Statewide Rank Similar Schools Rank</p>	<p>2012 Growth API Schoolwide/Student Group APIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11 including life science in Gr. 10), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–11), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), Geometry (Gr. 8–11), and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8 and 10) • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Growth Achieved Whether API Targets Were Met</p>	<p>2012 Base API Schoolwide/Student Group APIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11 including life science in Gr. 10), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–11), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), Geometry (Gr. 8–11), and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8 and 10) • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Targets Statewide Rank Similar Schools Rank</p>	<p>2013 Growth API Schoolwide/Student Group APIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTs in ELA, math, science (Gr. 5 and 8–11 including life science in Gr. 10), and history social-science (Gr. 8–11) • CMA in ELA (Gr. 3–11), math (Gr. 3–7), Algebra I (Gr. 7–11), Geometry (Gr. 8–11), and science (Gr. 5, 8, and 10) • CAPA in ELA, math, and science (Gr. 5, 8 and 10) • CAHSEE (Gr. 10–12) <p>API Growth Achieved Whether API Targets Were Met</p>
(June 2012 release)		(October 2012 release)	
		(May 2013 release)	
		(September 2013 release)	

¹ Grade levels of assessments are 2–11 unless otherwise noted.

Appropriate Comparisons of the API

Because new indicators are added to the API, test weights may change, and methodologies may change from one cycle to the next, it is inappropriate to compare APIs across reporting cycles. It is appropriate, however, to compare the Base and Growth APIs within a reporting cycle as well as to compare the amount of API growth (i.e., change in the API) of different reporting cycles.

■ Examples of Invalid and Valid Comparisons of the API

Invalid comparisons of the API

The following examples are invalid comparisons because the APIs are compared across reporting cycles. The reporting cycles may differ in the assessments (indicators) and the weights included in the APIs, and that type of comparison would not be a valid comparison.

- 2010 Base API and 2011 Base API

In this example, the 2010 Base API is in the 2010–11 reporting cycle, and the 2011 Base API is in the 2011–12 reporting cycle. The comparison is not valid because different indicators were used in each cycle (i.e., the CMA in ELA, grades ten and eleven, and CMA in Geometry were not in the 2010–11 cycle but were in the 2011–12 cycle).

- 2006 Base API and 2011 Growth API

In this example, the 2006 Base API is in the 2006–07 reporting cycle, and the 2011 Growth API is in the 2010–11 reporting cycle. Again, the comparison is not valid because different indicators were used in each cycle (i.e., the 2010–11 cycle included many more indicators than the 2006–07 cycle).

- 2012 Base API and 2012 Growth API

In this example, the 2012 Base API is in the 2012–13 reporting cycle, and the 2012 Growth API is in the 2011–12 reporting cycle. The APIs were calculated from the same year's test data (2012). However, the 2012 Base API eliminated the prior rule of lowering performance level(s) for grades eight and nine students who take the CST in General Mathematics. The 2012 Growth API contained the adjustment to CST General Mathematics results. Thus, this comparison is not valid.

Valid comparisons of the API

The following examples are valid comparisons because (1) the Base and Growth APIs are compared within the same reporting cycle, **or** (2) the amount of growth (change) in the API from different reporting cycles is compared.

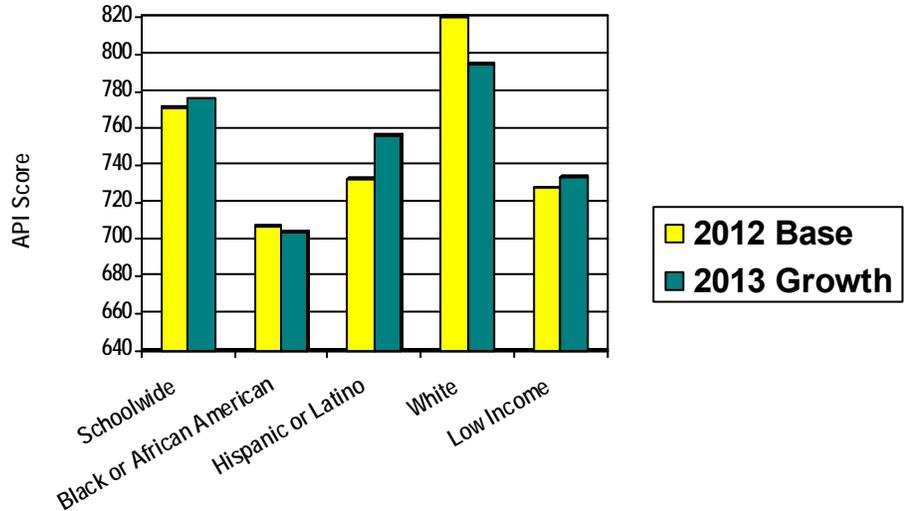
The first example compares APIs that are calculated based upon the same assessments (indicators). The second example compares the amount of change

in the API across reporting cycles.

- 2012 Base API and 2013 Growth API Within a Reporting Cycle

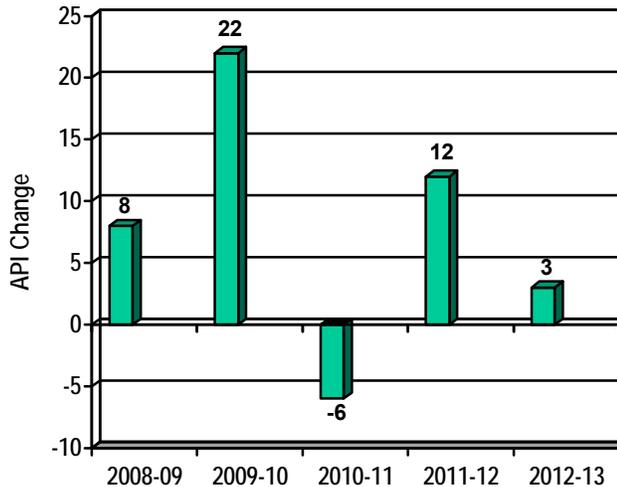
This example shows the amount of API change from 2012 to 2013 for the school and for each numerically significant student group. It also shows the school and student group API scores compared to the statewide target of 800.

Example of 2012–13 API Results



- The following example shows API growth (change) from 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13 for a school site while preserving the validity of API comparisons because growth within API cycles over five years is shown.

Example of Growth in the API, 2008–09 to 2012–13



Note that the data depicted in the graphs are examples and do not reflect an actual school's API data.

What is Included in API Reports?

The Base and Growth API reports provide accountability information about schools, LEAs, and the state. These reports are accessed on the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>. This section describes the types of information included in API reports.

County and LEA Lists of Schools

The County List of Schools and LEA List of Schools provide summaries of selected API information for each school and LEA. The reports for 2012–13 have the same basic structure as the prior year reports. Both the County and LEA List of Schools contain the following information about each school or LEA:

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Students Included in the Base API • 2012 Base API • 2012 Statewide Rank • 2012 Similar Schools Rank • 2012–13 Growth Target • 2013 API Target (2012 Base API plus 2012–13 Growth Target) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Students Included in the Growth API • 2013 Growth API • 2012 Base API (same as in 2012 Base API Report) • 2012–13 Growth Target (same as in 2012 Base API Report) • 2012–13 API Growth (2013 Growth API minus 2012 Base API) • Met Growth Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schoolwide - Student Groups - Both Schoolwide and Student Groups

School and LEA Reports

The school and LEA reports for 2012–13 have the same basic structure as the prior year reports. The navigation bar across the top of the page allows users to easily move between results for the state API, federal AYP, and federal PI requirements. The selection bar at the top right side of the reports allows users to navigate different sections of the reports.

■ **School Reports**

The school reports are divided into five sections described below. The summary and API reports are accessed through the navigation bar (across top of page), and the remaining sections are accessed through the selection bar (top right of page).

Summary Report

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
Contains the key state and federal overall results for the API and AYP. The API results include the 2012 Base API, the 2013 Growth API, and change in the API from 2012 to 2013.	

API Report

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Students Included in the Base API • 2012 Base API • 2012 Statewide Rank • 2012 Similar Schools Rank • 2012–13 Growth Target • 2013 API Target (2012 Base API plus 2012–13 Growth Target) • List of Similar Schools • Student Group Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Students Included in the Growth API • 2013 Growth API • 2012 Base API (same as in 2012 Base API Report) • 2012–13 Growth Target (same as in 2012 Base API Report) • 2012–13 API Growth (2013 Growth API minus 2012 Base API) • Met Growth Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schoolwide - Student Groups - Both Schoolwide and Student Groups • Similar Schools Median 2012 Growth API • Similar Schools Median 2011 Base API • Student Group Information

API Chart

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
Not available	Provides basic API results in chart form, including comparisons with district/county and statewide results.

Demographic Characteristics

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
Provides detailed demographic data from 2011–12 CALPADS.	Provides detailed demographic data from 2012–13 CALPADS.

Content Area Weights

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
Shows the unique content area weights for calculating the Base API.	Shows the unique content area weights for calculating the Growth API.

■ LEA Reports

The LEA reports include the same five sections as the school reports but contain fewer elements in the API Report section, as shown below.

API Report

2012 Base API Report (May 2013 release)	2013 Growth API Report (September 2013 release)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Students Included in the Base API 2012 Base API Student Group Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Students Included in the Growth API 2013 Growth API 2012 Base API (same as in 2012 Base API Report) 2012–13 API Growth (2013 Growth API minus 2012 Base API) Student Group Information

Statewide Data Files

The data files of statewide API results are provided in both DBF and ASCII text formats and are downloadable from the CDE API Data Files Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/apidatafiles.asp>. Record layout, flag definitions, and downloading instructions are also provided.

Accountability Reporting Timeline

- May 2013** The 2012 Base API reports are released on the CDE APR Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/>. These reports include the 2012 Base API, growth targets, student group data, demographic data, statewide ranks, similar schools ranks, and school content area weights.
- June 2013** LEAs complete corrections to 2011–12 cohort graduation data in CALPADS ODS.
- August 2013** The *2013 Adequate Yearly Progress Report Information Guide* is posted on the CDE AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.
- September 2013** The 2013 Growth API, 2013 AYP, and 2013–14 PI reports are released on the CDE APR Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/>.
- The appeals deadline for the 2013 AYP results occurs.
- October 2013** Data review process begins for LEAs to examine and make corrections to demographic data in the CALPADS ODS. (To view approximate dates when data will be extracted from the CALPADS ODS for accountability purposes, as well as CALPADS Snapshot collection windows and certification deadlines, please go the CDE CALPADS Calendar Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/rptcalendar.asp>.)
- November 2013** Updated 2013 Growth API, 2013 AYP, and 2013 PI reports are released. These updated reports will incorporate AYP appeal decisions.
- January 2014** Updated 2013 Growth API, 2013 AYP, and 2013–14 PI reports are released on the CDE APR Web page. These reports will reflect final data corrections made through CALPADS ODS.

For more information about API and AYP reports, trainings, data reviews, and correction processes, contact the AAU by phone at 916-319-0863 or by e-mail at aau@cde.ca.gov.

For more information about PI determinations and AYP appeals, contact the ERA Unit by phone at 916-322-3245 or by e-mail at evaluation@cde.ca.gov.

Who Receives an API Report?

Schools and LEAs Defined for API Reporting

A school must have a county-district-school (CDS) code, and an LEA must have a county-district (CD) code at the time of testing to receive an API. An LEA, for API reporting, is defined as a school district or a county office of education.

Schools and LEAs That Receive an API Report

Most schools and LEAs receive an API report. Student groups with 11 or more valid scores receive APIs as part of a school's or LEA's report.

■ Traditional Schools

All traditional schools, including year-round schools, receive an API, API ranks, and targets.

■ Charter Schools

Charter schools, both direct-funded and locally-funded, receive an API, API ranks, and targets in a school report only. API results from direct-funded charter schools are not counted in the API results of the sponsoring school district or county office of education. For accountability purposes, a statewide benefit charter is considered an LEA with each of its school sites considered a school within this LEA.

■ Small Schools

Small schools receive an API with an asterisk, a statewide API rank with an asterisk, and targets. They do not receive a similar schools rank.

Small schools are defined as having between 11 and 99 valid STAR Program scores. Small schools receive an API with an asterisk to denote the greater statistical uncertainty of an API based on a small number of student scores. Small schools also receive a statewide rank with an asterisk to indicate the decile rank into which their APIs would have fallen if they had been included in the ranking system. Although they are small, these schools still can have numerically significant student groups if they have a student group with 50 or more students that comprise at least 15 percent of the student population.

■ Alternative Schools Accountability Model Schools

California's *EC* Section 52052(h), requires that:

"The Superintendent, with the approval of the SBE, shall develop an alternative accountability system for schools under the jurisdiction of a county board of education or a county superintendent of schools, community day schools, . . . and alternative schools serving high-risk pupils, including continuation high schools and opportunity schools. . . ."

The Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) was adopted by the SBE in 2000 as the alternative accountability system. The ASAM includes schools that serve students at risk of dropping out and who tend to be highly mobile. ASAM schools have previously received an API report for AYP purposes but did not receive growth targets or rankings (statewide and similar schools).

In October 2010, the Governor signed the state budget and in doing so vetoed the data collection and reporting of the ASAM program as well as for identifying and disseminating best practices of alternative schools. Due to the lack of funding, the CDE eliminated ASAM reporting beginning with the 2009–10 ASAM cycle; however, the ASAM designation still continues.

Starting with the 2010 Base API, the CDE:

- Designates schools as ASAM if the school meets the established SBE criteria. This includes:
 - Posting the ASAM application on the CDE ASAM Web pages and accepting applications from eligible schools.
 - Continuing to review applications for compliance with SBE criteria and notifying the schools of their ASAM status.
 - Maintaining a database of all ASAM schools and updating it annually.
- Provides all ASAM schools API reports under the API system.
 - ASAM schools receive Base API reports with growth targets.
 - ASAM schools do not receive statewide ranks or similar schools ranks.

These activities are consistent with existing state and federal law as it relates to accountability for alternative schools and are appropriate for existing resources. More information about the ASAM is located on the CDE ASAM Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/am/>.

■ Special Education Schools

Special education schools receive an API. They do not receive API ranks or targets.

■ LEAs

LEAs responsible for schools receive an API in order to meet federal ESEA requirements. LEAs do not receive API ranks or targets.

The following chart shows the API elements that are reported for different types of schools and LEAs that receive an API report.

Chart of API Elements Reported

Type of School or LEA	Base API	State-wide Rank	Similar Schools Rank	Growth API	Growth/Change in the API	API Targets	Whether Targets Were Met	Student Group Information
Schools with 100 or more valid scores (includes charter schools)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Schools with 11 to 99 valid scores	Yes, with asterisk	Yes, with asterisk	N/A*	Yes, with asterisk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ASAM schools	Yes	N/A*	N/A*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Special Education schools	Yes	N/A*	N/A*	Yes	Yes	N/A*	N/A*	Yes
LEAs (school districts and county offices of education)	Yes	N/A*	N/A*	Yes	Yes	N/A*	N/A*	Yes

*N/A = Not Applicable

Schools and LEAs That Do Not Receive an API Report

The *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5 (5 CCR) requires that the API meet requirements for validity. A small number of schools and LEAs do not receive an API report as a result of failing to meet validity requirements. The 5 CCR are:

- The LEA notifies the CDE and the CDE approves the LEA's request that a significant change in the student population has taken place.
- The LEA notifies the CDE and the AMARD confirms that there were testing irregularities at a school affecting 5 percent or more of students tested.

- The school's proportion of parental waivers compared to its STAR Program enrollment is greater than 20 percent **or** is between 10 and 20 percent and the school's tested population is not representative of its total school population.

Under state law, all students must participate in STAR Program testing unless their parents or guardians have submitted written requests (referred to here as parental opt-outs) to exempt them from the testing (California *EC* Section 60615). However, regulations provide for invalidating a school's API if its proportion of parental opt-outs compared to its STAR Program enrollment is equal to or greater than 20 percent. If the percentage of parental opt-outs compared to its STAR Program enrollment is equal to or greater than 10 percent but less than 20 percent, the CDE will conduct standard statistical tests to determine if the school's tested population is representative of the total school population. The school's API is considered invalid if it does not pass the statistical check. Alternatively, the school's API is considered valid if it passes the statistical check and the school would receive an API.

- The school's proportion of the number of test takers in any test used in the API (except end-of-course exams) compared with the total number of test takers is less than 85 percent. This only applies to schools with at least 100 valid test scores in a content area.
- Information is made available to the CDE, and the CDE determines that the integrity of the API has been jeopardized.
- An API report is not produced if the school has fewer than 11 valid scores. The APIs for these schools are calculated for federal AYP purposes but are not shown on the API or AYP report due to privacy considerations.

Summaries of the 5 *CCR* and the *EC* relating to what constitutes a valid API are provided on pages 40 and 41. A school or an LEA with an invalid Growth API does not meet the API criteria under AYP requirements.

An API report is not produced if a school or an LEA does not have a CDS or CD code for the year of testing. For example, a new school beginning in the 2012–13 school year will not receive a 2012 Base API because it did not have a CDS code at the time of spring 2012 testing. However, it will receive a 2013 Growth API and a 2013 Base API because it would have a CDS code at the time of spring 2013 testing. Information about CDS code assignment is located on the CDE Schools and Districts Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/ds/>.

Student Groups

Student groups for API reporting refer to ethnic/racial, socioeconomically disadvantaged, EL, and SWD student groups.

Definitions of Student Groups Used in the API

Terms	Definition
A "numerically significant student group" for the API is defined as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 or more students with valid STAR Program scores OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 or more students with valid STAR Program scores who make up at least 15 percent of the total valid STAR Program scores <p>A student group must be numerically significant in both the Base year and Growth year in an API reporting cycle to have student group growth and target information.</p>
Student groups used in API calculations include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black or African American • American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Filipino • Hispanic or Latino • Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander • White • Two or More Races • Socioeconomically Disadvantaged • English Learners • Students with Disabilities
"Socioeconomically Disadvantaged" is defined as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student neither of whose parents have received a high school diploma OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who is eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program, also known as the NSLP
"English Learner" is defined as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who is identified as EL based on results of the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reclassified fluent-English-proficient (RFEP) student who has not scored at the proficient level or above on the CST or CMA in ELA three times after being reclassified
"Student with Disabilities" is defined as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who receives special education services, has a valid disability code or took the CMA or CAPA OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who was previously identified as special education but who is no longer receiving special education services for two years after exiting special education*

* These students are not counted in determining numerical significance for the SWD student group.

Reclassified Fluent-English-Proficient Students

In calculating the API for the EL student group for a school or an LEA, RFEP students who have not scored proficient or above on the CST or CMA in ELA, or a combination of the CST or CMA, three times since reclassification are included in the student group API. Students who have not scored proficient or above on the CST or CMA in ELA three times after being reclassified are counted to determine whether the EL student group meets the minimum student group size to be numerically significant. This rule matches the rule used in AYP calculations.

Students with Disabilities

The CDE includes in the SWD student group the scores of students who were previously identified under Section 602(3) of the IDEA but who are no longer receiving special education services for two years after exiting these services. For the 2012 Base API Report, any student record with a special education exit date after March 15, 2010, and for the 2013 Growth API Report, any student record with a special education exit date after March 15, 2011, is considered to have received special education services within the past two years and is included in the SWD student group. These students, however, are not counted when determining whether the SWD student group meets the minimum group size to be numerically significant. This rule matches the rule used in AYP calculations. Also, if a student took a CMA or CAPA, the results are counted in the SWD student group, even if the record shows no valid disability code.

A student with a disability, with a valid district of residence code on the student answer document, is included in the district of residence accountability results.

English Learners First Enrolled in U.S. Schools

The results of ELs who were first enrolled in U.S. schools for less than a year are not included in the API count of valid scores or in a school's, an LEA's, or student group's API. For the 2012 Base API Report, any EL with an enrolled date after March 15, 2011, and for the 2013 Growth API Report, any EL with an enrolled date after March 15, 2012, are considered as enrolled in a U.S. school less than a year at STAR Program or CAHSEE testing. This API exclusion rule for ELs matches the exclusion rule used in calculating percent proficient for AYP under ESEA requirements. (These students, however, are not excluded from the AYP participation rate.)

Race and Ethnicity Categories

In October 2007, the ED published new guidance to states on maintaining, collecting, and reporting race and ethnicity data. The guidance requires states to ask respondents a two-part question. The first question addresses ethnicity and asks whether the respondent is Hispanic or Latino. The second question addresses race, which all respondents (including Hispanic/Latino respondents) are required to answer. It requests the respondent to select one or more races from a list of racial categories.

Respondents who indicate they are Hispanic or Latino are reported as Hispanic or Latino, regardless of their response to the race question.

Beginning with the 2009 Base API, race/ethnicity student groups are reported on the API report as student groups in eight categories: Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White, and Two or More Races. The subcategories for Asian (i.e., Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Laotian, Cambodian, Other Asian, or Hmong) default to Asian. The subcategories for Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (i.e., Native Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Tahitian, or Other Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander) default to Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. If multiple subcategories are marked in the same racial category (e.g., Chinese and Korean) the student is classified as that category (e.g., Asian), not Two or More Races.

The following steps determine in which race/ethnicity student group API a student's test results are included:

1. If the CALPADS student record shows Hispanic or Latino in any field, the student's results are included in the Hispanic or Latino student group API.
2. If the CALPADS student record shows non-Hispanic or Latino and only one race, the student's results are included in the student group API of that racial category.
3. If the CALPADS student record shows non-Hispanic or Latino and more than one race, the student's results are included in the Two or More Races student group API.
4. If the CALPADS student record shows blank in all fields, the student's results are included in the schoolwide and districtwide APIs but not in any race/ethnicity student group. (Note: For the 2012 Base API only, if the CALPADS student record shows blank in all fields then the race/ethnicity determination was taken from the STAR student answer document.)
5. If the STAR student answer document cannot be matched to a student record in CALPADS, the student will be included in the Two or More Races student group API. (Note: For the 2012 Base API only, if a STAR student answer document cannot be matched to a student record in CALPADS, race/ethnicity determination was taken from the STAR student answer document.)

API Calculation

The next seven steps outline the basic steps for calculating an API and describe the calculation rules and policies. Calculation spreadsheets are provided on the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/> to show the details of the calculation and provide a way for users to estimate an API. The spreadsheets on the CDE API Web page allow users to input their own data and have their API estimated automatically from that data. The spreadsheet results are estimates only as many detailed rules are applied to student results in order to accurately calculate an API.

Basic Steps

The following list describes the basic steps to calculate an API for a school, an LEA, or a student group using STAR Program and CAHSEE results. Follow steps 1 and 2 to determine the appropriate scores to input into the calculation spreadsheets on the CDE API Web page. The spreadsheets will then automatically calculate steps 3 through 7.

1. Apply inclusion/exclusion and adjustment rules to each student test result.
2. Apply API validity criteria (5 *CCR* and *EC* requirements).
3. Convert each test result into a score on the API scale using statewide performance level weighting factors:
 - Advanced = 1000 points
 - Proficient = 875 points
 - Basic = 700 points
 - Below Basic = 500 points
 - Far Below Basic = 200 points
4. Calculate a weighted average of the scores using statewide test weights.
5. Add in the Scale Calibration Factor (SCF).
6. Sum the weighted average of the scores and the SCF to produce the API.
7. For schools or LEAs with grade spans that overlap the SCF categories, a weighted average of the APIs of the grade span/disability segments is used to produce the final API.

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules

The SBE and the CDE have established inclusion/exclusion and adjustment rules in order to treat student data as fairly and consistently as possible in API calculations. These rules are applied to the STAR Program and CAHSEE results as the first preliminary step to calculating an API. In this process, some student records are excluded, and some performance levels are adjusted in order to account for differences that affect test results, such as student mobility, student absence from testing, test administration, and test type. The rules are applied in API calculations for a school, an LEA, or a student group only and do not affect the score report an individual student receives.

An "Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart" is provided on pages 30 through 35 to describe the rules and to illustrate the procedures used in applying the rules.

Definition of "Continuously Enrolled" and Assignment of Results to School and School District of Residence (SB 219)

California *EC* Section 52052.1(a)(1) (added by SB 219, Stats. of 2007, c. 731) requires the assessment and other accountability results of some students enrolled in an alternative education program (AEP) to be assigned back to a school or school district of residence in the calculation of the API. At its January 2012 meeting, the SBE adopted amendments to 5 *CCR*, sections 1039.2 and 1039.3, relating to the implementation of California *EC* Section 52052.1(a)(1). These regulations may be found on the Office of Administrative Law Web site at <http://www.oal.ca.gov/>. The SBE's adoption of regulations authorized the inclusion of the following in the 2011 Base API:

- "Continuously enrolled" is defined as student enrollment from Fall Census Day (first Wednesday in October) to the first day of testing without a gap in enrollment of more than 30 consecutive calendar days.
- If a student is referred to an AEP school by a non-AEP school and/or a non-AEP school district of residence after Fall Census Day, and the student took the STAR Program and/or CAHSEE at the AEP, the student's test results are assigned to the non-AEP school.

Flow Chart Steps

The inclusion/exclusion and adjustment rules flow chart shows the process of determining which student records to include based on continuous enrollment and whether results are assigned back to a school or school district of residence. "School of

residence" means the last non-AEP school the pupil attended. "School district of residence" means the LEA of the last non-AEP school in which the pupil was enrolled.

The rules encompass four main steps:

Step 1: Determine if Assessment Results Are Attributed Back to Non-AEP School and its LEA, Grades Two Through Twelve

- Using CALPADS student records, determine whether the assessment results of a student would be assigned back to a school or school district of residence.

**Step 2: STAR Program, Grades Two Through Eleven
(Enrollment First Day of Testing, Number of Students Tested, Number of Valid Scores)**

- Using STAR Program student answer documents, determine enrollment on the first day of testing, the number of students tested, and the number of valid scores. This is done for each school and LEA.

**Step 3: STAR Program, Grades Two Through Eleven
(API Adjustments)**

- From the valid scores determined in Step 2, apply API adjustments to the STAR Program scores used in the API. This is done for each content area.

**Step 4: CAHSEE, Grades Ten through Twelve
(Valid Records and API Weights)**

- Using CAHSEE student answer documents, determine which records are valid and apply API adjustments to the scores used in the API. This is done for each content area.

Tools for Using the Flow Chart

The flow chart includes references to testing codes, CAHSEE census/makeup matching, and mathematics and science adjustments that are considered when applying inclusion/exclusion rules. Reference information is located in separate sections:

- "Testing Codes Considered in API Calculations" is provided on pages 36 and 37.
- "CAHSEE Matching Rules" is provided on page 38.
- "Mathematics and Science Rules" for CSTs is provided on pages 38 and 39.

"Score" in the flow chart refers to a performance level of advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, or far below basic (CSTs, CMAs, or the CAPA) or pass or not pass (CAHSEE). Inclusion/exclusion and adjustment rules for the API may not always match the procedures for determining AYP or generating the STAR Program or CAHSEE summary reports.

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart

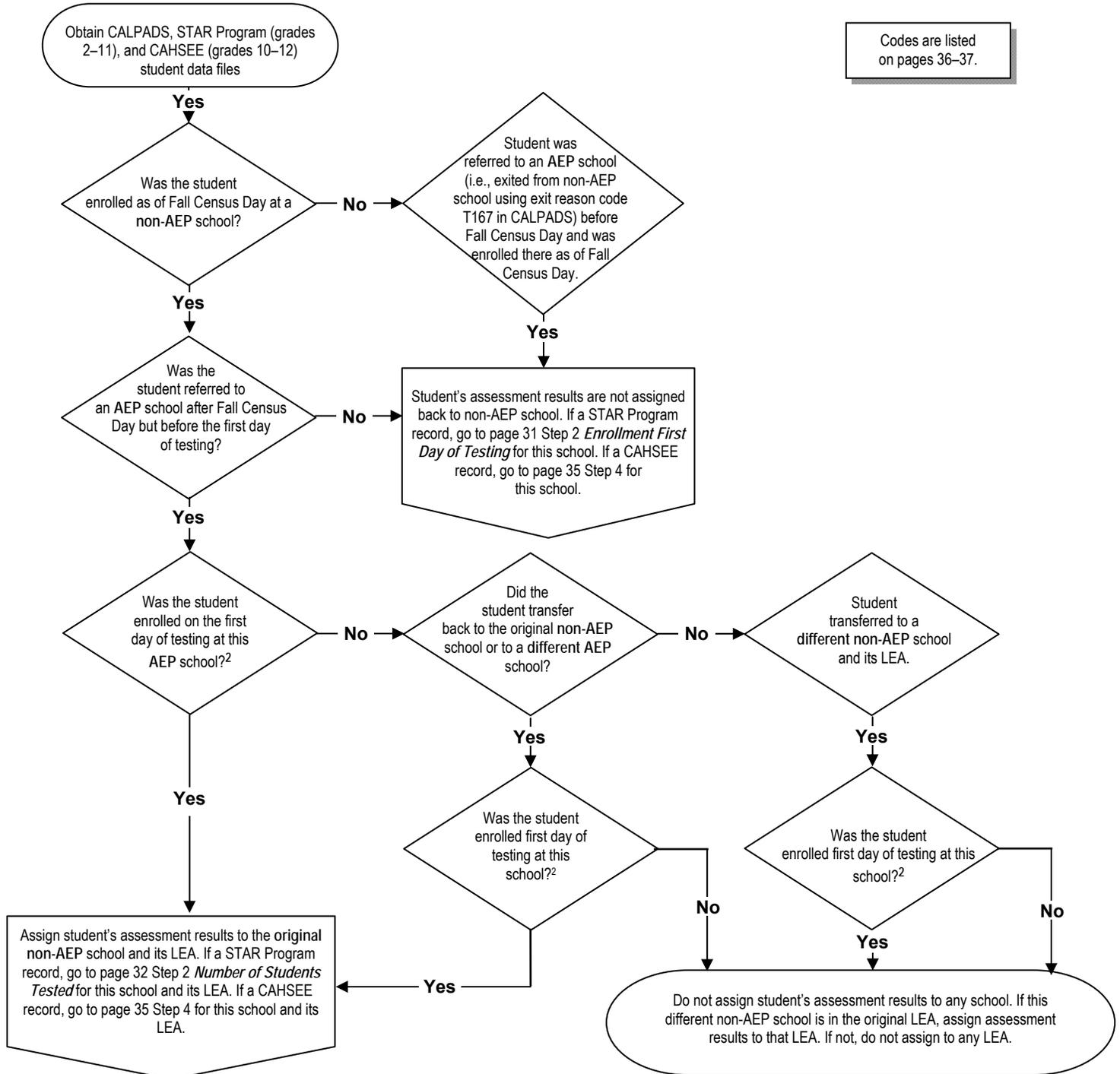
Step 1

Determine if Assessment Results Are Sent Back to Non-AEP School and its LEA, Grades Two Through Twelve¹

Sent Back to Non-AEP?

Calculate for each school or LEA.

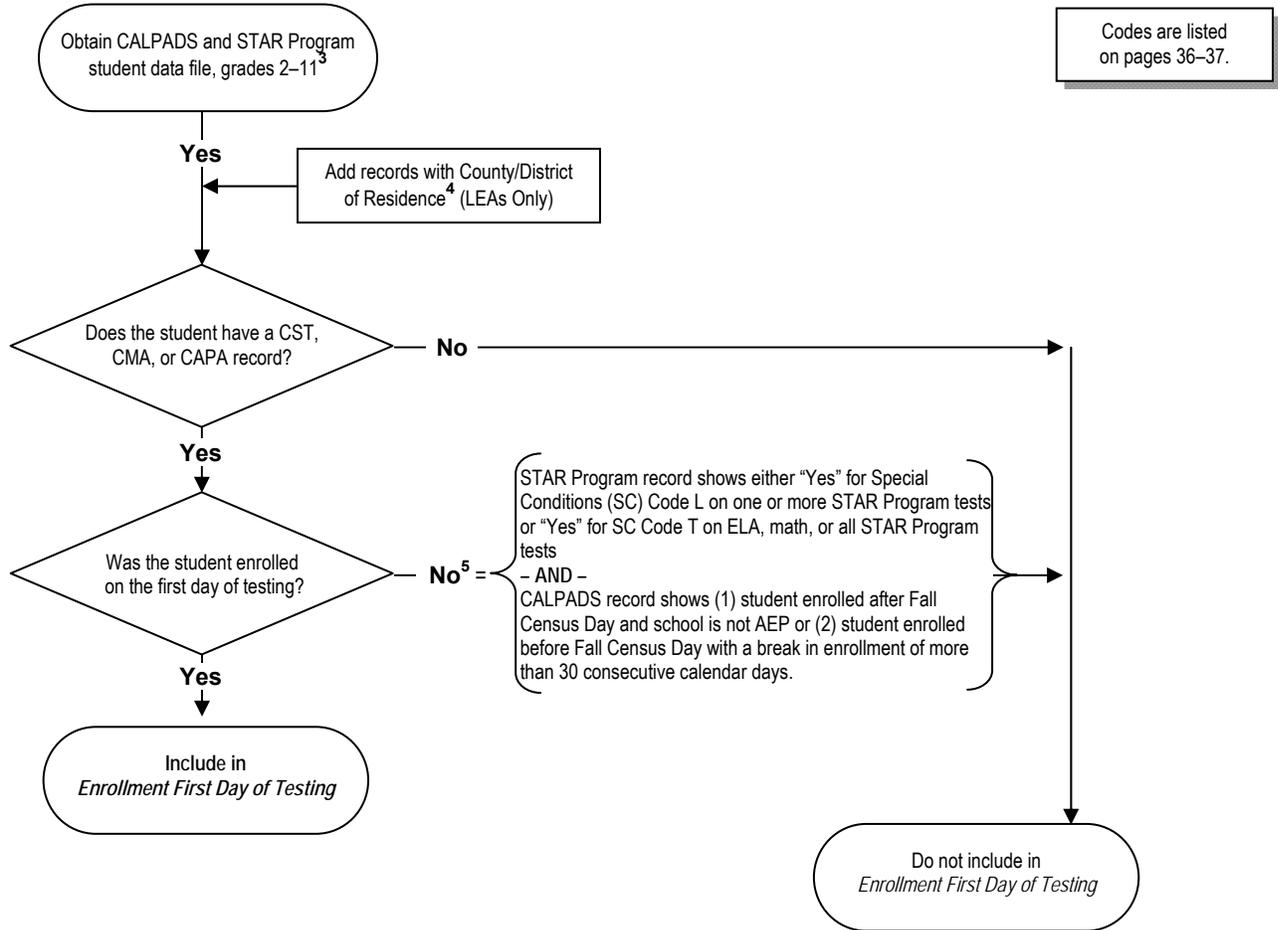
Codes are listed on pages 36–37.



1 AEP means a school that is eligible for the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) and/or an independent study program within an LEA.
 2 If a STAR Program student record, determine enrolled first day of testing by completing page 31 Step 2 *Enrollment First Day of Testing* flowchart for this school. If a CAHSEE student record, student was enrolled first day of testing if record shows student enrolled from Fall Census Day to CAHSEE test date with no break in enrollment of more than 30 consecutive calendar days using CALPADS data.

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart Step 2 STAR Program, Grades Two Through Eleven

Enrollment First Day of Testing Calculate for each school or LEA.



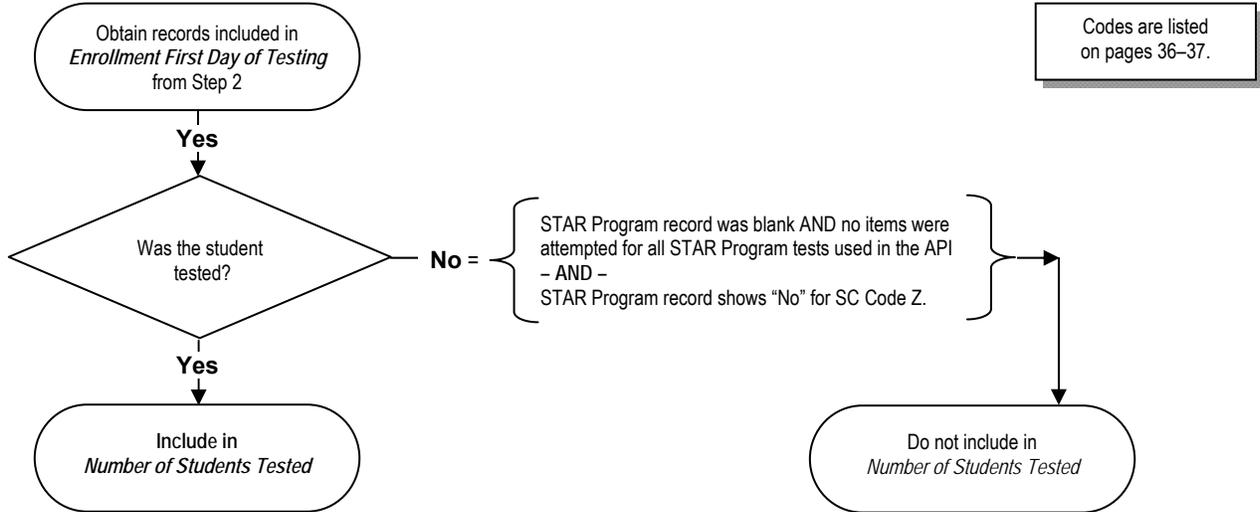
Codes are listed on pages 36–37.

- 3 Inclusion/exclusion of a student record for enrollment and valid scores is based on CALPADS, and test data is based on STAR Program records only. Enrollment from CAHSEE is not necessary because STAR Program results normally include an answer document for each student who takes the CAHSEE.
- 4 For LEAs only, a student record with a valid County/District of Residence code and a valid Primary Disability code (other than 000) is included in the county/district of residence for the LEA report if the student's school of attendance (normal CDS code) is a special education school. The record is also included in the student's school of attendance.
- 5 Records with "Yes" for SC Code T on CST in science or history-social science are included in enrollment on the first day of testing regardless of the continuous enrollment. ("Continuously enrolled" means the student was enrolled from Fall Census Day through the first day of STAR Program and/or CAHSEE testing without a break in enrollment of more than 30 consecutive calendar days.)

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart Step 2 (continued) STAR Program, Grades Two Through Eleven

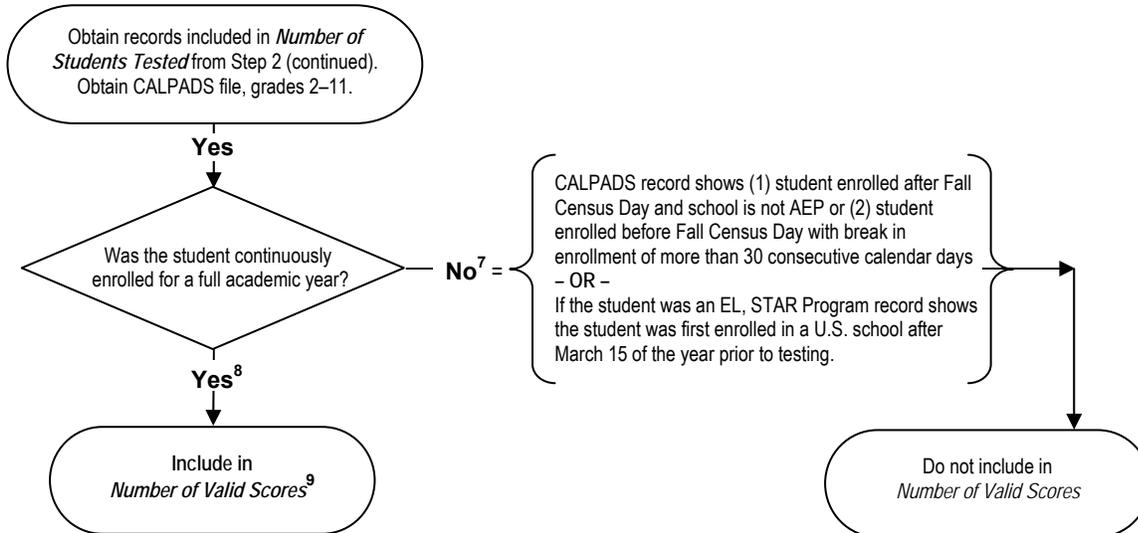
Number of Students Tested

Calculate for each school or LEA.



Number of Valid Scores

Calculate for each school or LEA.



6 When continuous enrollment cannot be determined using CALPADS data, the student will be considered continuously enrolled.

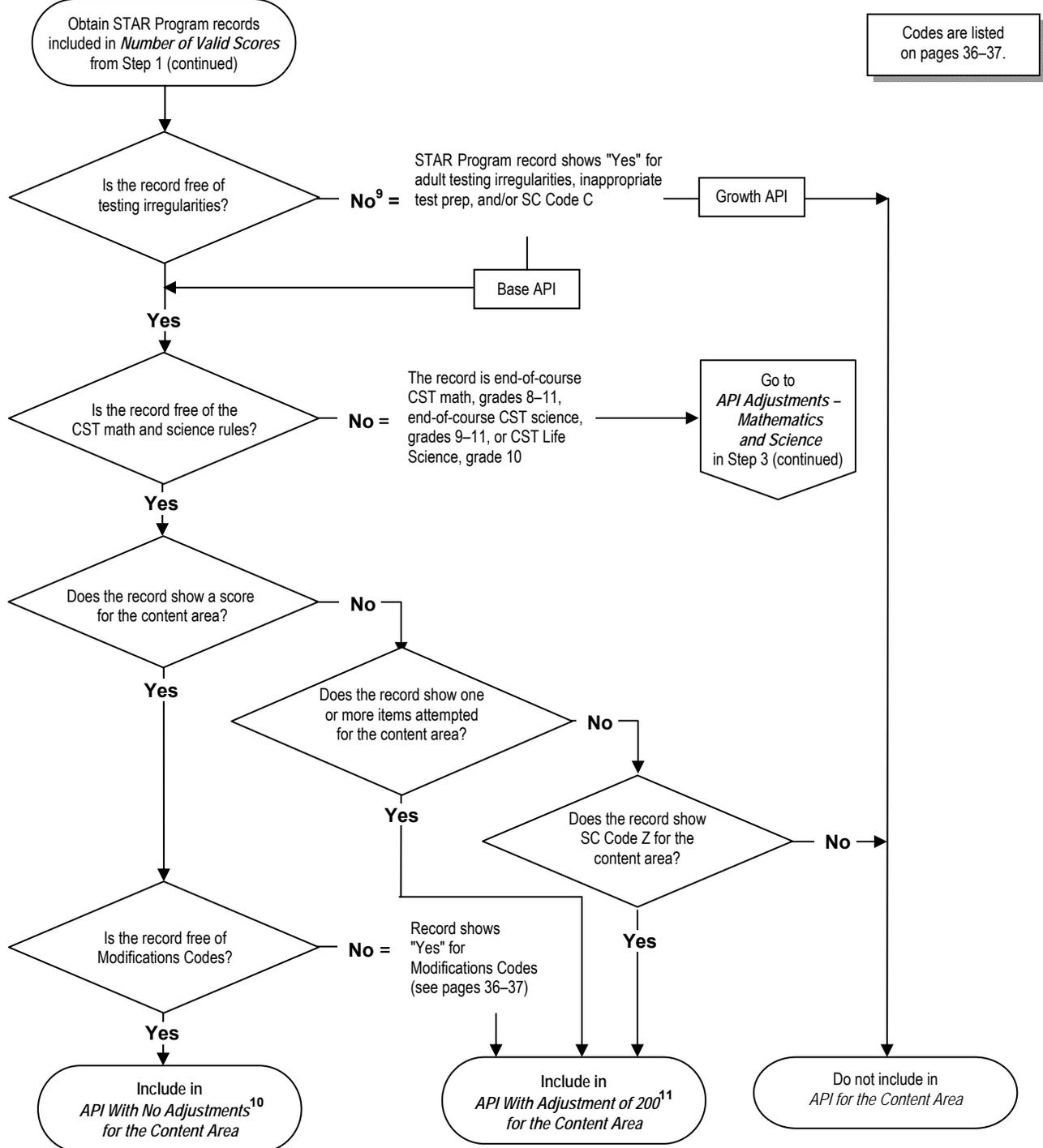
7 Mobility/Continuous Enrollment Rule: If the student has been continuously enrolled in a school from Fall Census Day to the testing date, the student is counted in the school API. If the student has been continuously enrolled in the LEA from Fall Census Day to the testing date, the student is counted in the LEA API.

8 The number of valid scores is the same as the "Number of Students Included in the API" on the school's or LEA's API report.

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart Step 3 STAR Program, Grades Two Through Eleven

API Adjustments – STAR Program

Calculate for each CST, CMA, or CAPA Content Area.



9 If the record shows a testing irregularity, it is included in the Base API but is not included in the Growth API. (This process occurs at both the school and LEA.)

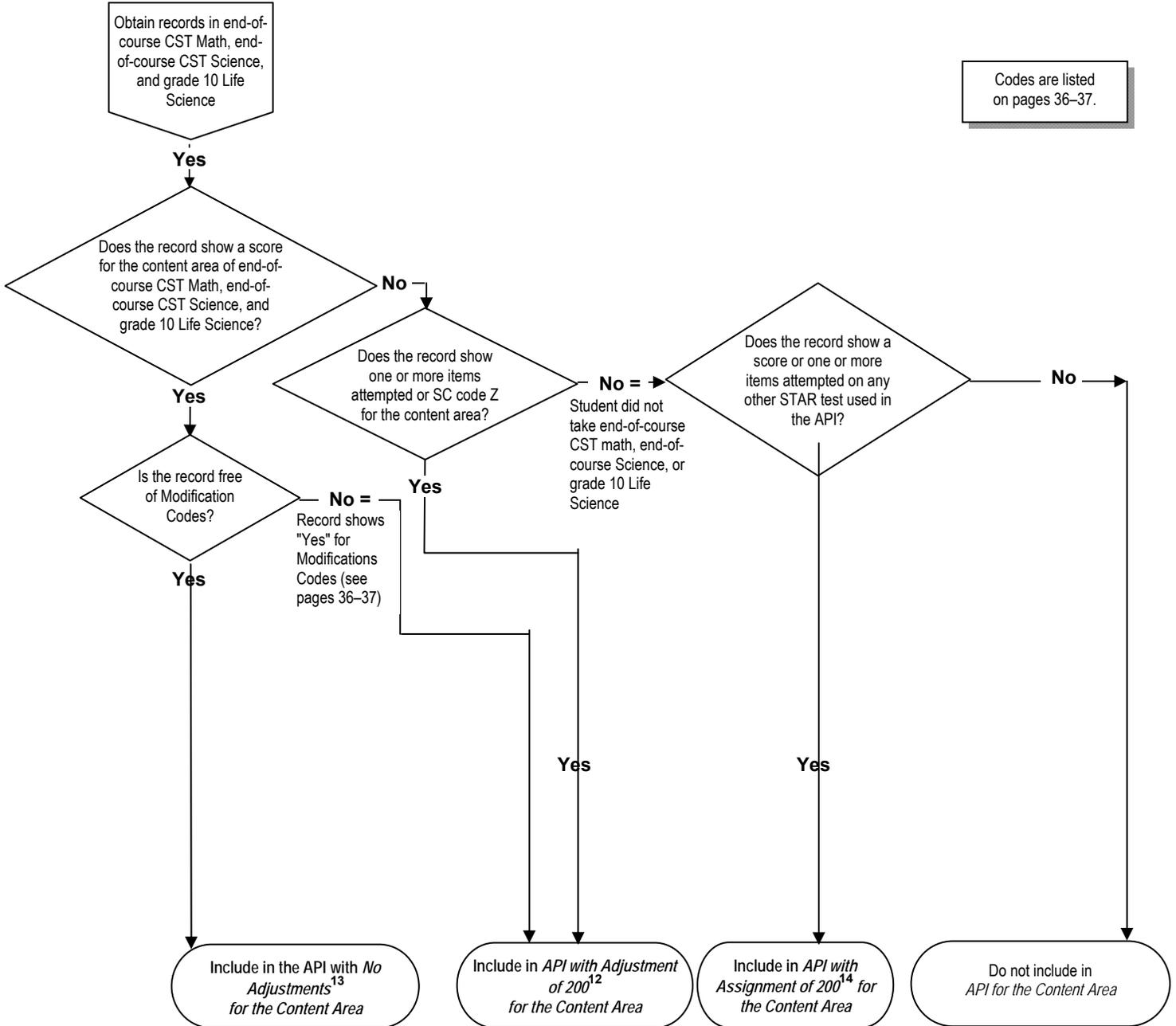
10 "No Adjustments" means a weight of 200, 500, 700, 875, or 1000 is assigned in the API based upon the score on the student record for the content area.

11 "Adjustment of 200" means that a weight of 200 is assigned for that content area using the normal test weights noted on page 44. Note: Out-of-level testing is not allowed. However, if a student record shows out-of-level, the results are counted in the API with a weight of 200.

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart Step 3 (continued) STAR Program, Grades Eight Through Eleven

API Adjustments – Mathematics and Science

Calculate for each end-of-course CST in Mathematics, grades 8–11; end-of-course CST in Science, grades 9–11; and CST in Life Science, grade 10.



12 "Adjustment of 200" means that a weight of 200 is assigned for that content area using the normal test weights noted on page 44.

13 "No Adjustments" means a weight of 200, 500, 700, 875, or 1000 is assigned in the API based upon the score on the student record for the content area.

14 If the record shows the student did not take an end-of-course CST in Math or Science, the record is assigned a 200 weight, called the "assignment of 200," for the content area. (Note: The "assignment of 200" does not apply to students in grade ten who did not take an end-of-course CST in Science, but took the Life Science test.)

Inclusion/Exclusion and Adjustment Rules Flow Chart

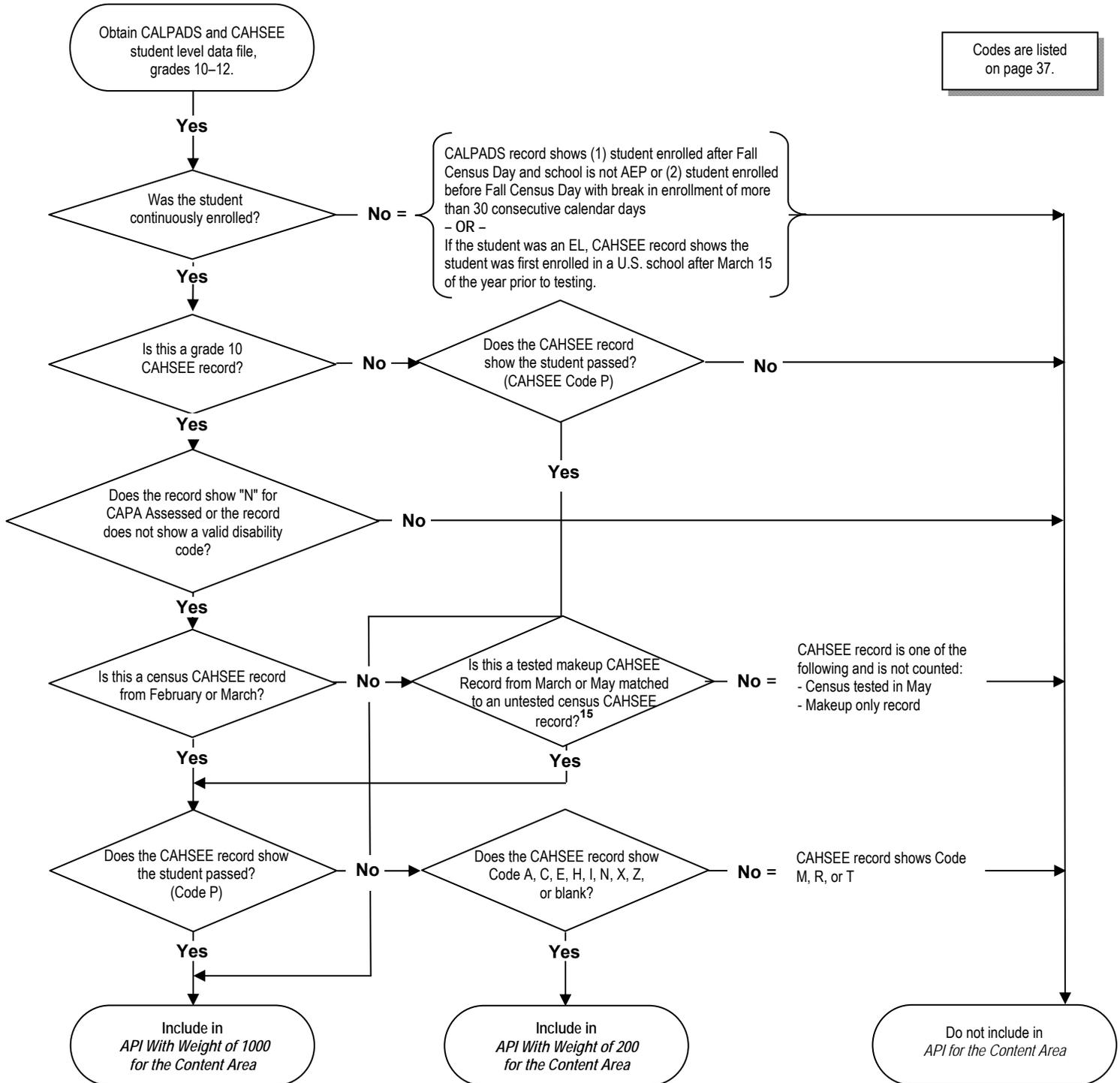
Step 4

CAHSEE, Grades Ten Through Twelve

Valid Records and API Weights – CAHSEE

Calculate for each CAHSEE Content Area.

Codes are listed on page 37.



15 The tested makeup record takes the place of the untested census record when they are matched by SSID. A tested makeup record does not show CAHSEE Code A, E, R, T, or M. An untested census record shows CAHSEE Code A or E. If the student passes on a matched makeup record, the 1000 replaces the 200 given to the absent census record. A March makeup record that does not match a February census record is treated as a March census record for the SSID.

Testing Codes Considered in API Calculations

The following listing shows the STAR Program and CAHSEE testing codes that are considered in API calculations. STAR Program accommodations codes are not listed because records with those codes would have no API adjustments.

■ STAR Program Special Conditions Codes

- (C) Student observed cheating
- (L) Enrolled after first day and was tested
- (M) Took some tests but moved before these tests were administered
- (P) Not tested by parent/guardian request
- (T) Enrolled during testing and tested at previous school
- (Z) Tested but marked no answers

■ STAR Program Modifications Codes

- (N) Student used a dictionary
- (O) Test examiner used Manually Coded English or American Sign Language (ASL) to present test questions to student
- (Q) Student used a calculator
- (R) Student used an arithmetic table
- (S) Student used math manipulatives
- (V) Student used assistive device that interfered with the independent work of the student
- (W) Student used an unlisted modification
- (Z) Student heard test examiner read test questions or text in Writing Prompt aloud

The "Testing Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications" is provided on the CDE STAR Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/>.

The following shows the codes considered for each content area.

ELA = N, O, V, W, Z

Mathematics = N, Q, R, S, V, W

Science = N, Q, R, S, V, W

History–Social Science = N, V, W

■ Irregularities

- There were adult testing irregularities (Box A1-Scoring Use Only-Row 1)
- There was inappropriate test preparation (Box A1-Scoring Use Only-Row 2)
- **Special Conditions Code (C)** Student observed cheating

■ CAHSEE Codes (Grade 10 census only)

Code	API Weight
(A) Absent	200
(C) Score invalidated (cheating)	200
(E) Not tested due to significant medical emergency	200
(H) Pending (on hold or cancelled)	200
(I) Modified (modification used)	200
(M) Moved in/out of district on day of testing (grade 10 only)	Not included in API
(N) Not passed	200
(P) Passed	1000
(R) Previously satisfied requirement	Not included in API
(X) Not attempted	200
(T) Tested before	Not included in API
(Z) Not attempted (0 responses)	200

CAHSEE Matching Rules

CAHSEE census and makeup records have the following matching rules.

- **Rule 1: Same District; Two Different Schools; Same SSID**

A tested make-up record from School B is matched with an untested census record at School A in the same district. The untested census record is dropped from School A and the make-up record is counted as March census at School B. No district adjustment is needed.

- **Rule 2: Two Different Districts; Same SSID**

A make-up record from District E is matched with an untested census record at a District F. The untested census record is dropped from District F (and from the District F school) and the make-up record is counted as March census at District E (and at the District E school). Both district and school level adjustments are made.

- **Rule 3: Same CDS Code; Same SSID (Duplicate Records)**

A tested census record is matched with a second tested census record or with a tested make-up record from the same school or district in the same content area. The first tested record is counted and the duplicate record is dropped.

Mathematics and Science Rules: Assignment of 200

The following rules apply to the CSTs in mathematics and science. These rules do not apply to AYP calculations.

- **Assignment of 200**

The SBE adopted a methodology to account for students who do not take end-of-course CSTs in mathematics and science. The methodology, the "assignment of 200," assigns the lowest value of 200 points (far below basic level) when calculating a school's API in instances where the student did not take one of these tests. If students take the CMA or CAPA, these rules do not apply.

Rules for CSTs and CMAs in Mathematics: Grades Eight through Eleven

To account for students who do not take end-of-course CST/CMA in mathematics, a 200 is assigned as the performance level weight for any student record without a performance level for CST/CMA in mathematics, grades eight through eleven. In this case, a test weight of 0.10 is used in the calculation instead of a test weight of 0.32 (grade eight) or 0.20 (grades nine through eleven)

that is otherwise used for a student record showing the student took a CST in mathematics. If "Unknown," "Multiple Marks," or blank for "CST Mathematics Test Taken" is shown on the student record, the content area of the record is included in the API and assigned a weight of 200 using the normal test weight of 0.32 for grade eight or 0.20 for grades nine through eleven.

Rules for CSTs in Science: Grades Nine Through Eleven

To account for students who do not take an end-of-course CST in science, a 200 is assigned for the performance level weight for any student record without a performance level for any CST in science for grades nine through eleven, which includes the end-of-course CST in science in grades nine through eleven or the CST in life science in grade ten. In this case, a test weight of 0.05 is used in the end-of-course CST in the science part of the API calculation instead of a test weight of 0.22 (CST in science, grades nine through eleven) that is otherwise used for a student record showing the student took a CST in science. However, this assignment of 200 rule does not apply to results of a student in grade ten who takes the CST in life science.

If "Unknown," "Multiple Marks," or blank for "CST Science Test Taken" is shown on the student record, the content area of the record is included in the API and assigned a weight of 200 using the normal test weight of 0.22.

Valid API Criteria

In addition to the inclusion/exclusion and adjustment rules, the API also must meet regulations related to validity. If the criteria listed below are not met, the API is not reported. A section of the 5 CCR is summarized below and lists the reasons for invalidating an API. These regulations were adopted by the SBE in November 2001.

API Regulations for Determining a Valid API

Summary of Selected Subsections of *EC* Section 1032(d)

5 CCR, Division 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter 4, Article 1.7

A school's API shall be considered invalid under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) The LEA notifies the CDE that there were adult testing irregularities at the school affecting 5 percent or more of pupils tested.
- (2) The LEA notifies the CDE that the API is not representative of the pupil population at the school.
- (3) The LEA notifies the CDE that the school has experienced a significant demographic change in pupil population between the base year and growth year, and that the API between years is not comparable.
- (4) The school's proportion of parental waivers compared to its STAR Program enrollment is equal to or greater than 10 percent, except when the school's proportion of parental waivers compared to its STAR Program enrollment is equal to or greater than 10 percent but less than 20 percent. In this case, the CDE will conduct standard statistical tests to check the representativeness of the school's tested population and review the representatives of the tested population by grade level. If the school passes the check of representativeness, the school's API shall be considered valid. If the school does not pass the check of representativeness, the school's API shall be considered invalid. There shall be no rounding in determining this minimum parental waiver proportion (i.e., 9.99 percent is not 10 percent).
- (5) In any content area tested pursuant to *EC* sections 60642 and 60642.5 and included in the API, the school's proportion of the number of test takers in that content area compared with the total numbers of test takers is less than 85 percent. There shall be no rounding in determining the proportion of test takers in each content area (i.e., 84.99 percent is not 85 percent).

Note: This rule applies only if the school has 100 or more valid test scores in each content area prior to or on Fall Census Day. This rule applies to the following content areas and grade levels:

Summary of Selected Subsections of *EC* Section 1032(d) (continued)

5 CCR

Division 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter 4, Article 1.7

- English–language arts
 - CST and CAPA (grades two through eleven)
 - CMA (grades three through eleven)
- Mathematics
 - CST and CAPA (grades two through nine)
 - CMA (grades three through nine)
- Science*
 - CST, CMA, and CAPA (grades five, eight, and ten [life science])
- History–social science*
 - CST (grades eight and eleven)

*This rule does not apply to end-of-course tests such as end-of-course science and world history.

(6) If, at any time, information is made available to or obtained by the CDE that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that one or more of the preceding circumstances occurred. If after reviewing the information, the CDE determines that further investigation is warranted, the CDE may conduct an investigation to determine if the integrity of the API has been jeopardized. The CDE may invalidate or withhold the school's API until such time that the CDE has satisfied itself that the integrity of the API has not been jeopardized.

***EC* Provisions for Invalidating an API**

In addition to state regulations, California *EC* Section 52052(f)(2), also allows the SSPI to invalidate an API for specific reasons.

Performance Level Weighting Factors

The performance level weighting factors are applied after the inclusion/exclusion, adjustment, and validity rules have been applied. Performance level weighting factors are used to assign an API unit of measure across all test results used in the API calculations.

Students' performance levels on the CST, CMA, or CAPA and pass/no pass scores on the CAHSEE are assigned a performance level weighting factor, as shown in the table below. A scale score of 350 or more on the CAHSEE is considered passing. The weights are assigned in API calculations for a school, an LEA, or a student group only and do not affect the score report an individual student receives.

Test Scores and Performance Level Weighting Factors

CST, CMA, or CAPA Performance Level	CAHSEE Score	Performance Level Weighting Factor Assigned
Advanced	Pass	1000
Proficient	N/A	875
Basic	N/A	700
Below Basic	N/A	500
Far Below Basic	No Pass	200

The performance level weighting factors were established as a progressive weighting method to encourage schools to provide additional support to low-performing students. The following table illustrates the effects of progressive weighting.

Progressive Weighting

CST, CMA, or CAPA Performance Level	Performance Level Weighting Factor Assigned	Point Gain for Movement
Advanced	1000	$1000 - 875 = 125$
Proficient	875	$875 - 700 = 175$
Basic	700	$700 - 500 = 200$
Below Basic	500	$500 - 200 = 300$
Far Below Basic	200	N/A

The "Point Gain for Movement" column shows that moving students from the far below basic performance level to the below basic performance level will result in

greater API growth than moving students from below basic to basic. This is because the weighting factor for the API increases by a greater increment (shown as point gain for movement) between the far below basic level and the below basic level (i.e., an increase of 300 points) than for any other increase (i.e., 200, 175, and 125). This suggests that a greater API gain can occur through the improvement of the lowest performing students in the school.

Test Weights

Test weights are applied after the API weighting factors are assigned. Test weights are fixed, statewide weights applied according to the type of test included in the API and according to grade span: two through eight and nine through eleven. Because they are fixed, test weights are the same for all school, LEA, or student group APIs and are the same for the Base and Growth APIs within a reporting cycle. The SBE is responsible for adopting test weights. Test weights are applied to each student test record in the calculation rather than to total test results of a school, an LEA, or a student group. The weights are applied in API calculations only and do not affect the score report an individual student receives. The tables below show the test weights for grades two through eight and grades nine through twelve for 2012–13.

Test Weights, Grades 2–8

Content Area	2012–13 API Test Weights
CST/CMA/CAPA in ELA, Grades 2–8	0.48
CST/CMA/CAPA in Mathematics, Grades 2–8	0.32
CST/CMA/CAPA in Science, Grades 5 and 8	0.20
CST in History–Social Science, Grade 8	0.20
Assignment of 200, CST in Mathematics, Grade 8	0.10

Note: Test weights are not shown as percentages and do not total 1.00.

Test Weights, Grades 9–12

Content Area	2012–13 API Test Weights
CST/CMA/CAPA in ELA, Grades 9–11	0.30
CST/CMA/CAPA in Mathematics, Grades 9–11	0.20
CST/CMA/CAPA in Science, Grades 9–11	0.22
CST/CMA/CAPA in Life Science, Grade 10	0.10
CST in History–Social Science, Grades 9–11	0.23
CAHSEE ELA, Grades 10–12	0.30
CAHSEE Mathematics, Grades 10–12	0.30
Assignment of 200, CST in Mathematics, Grades 9–11	0.10
Assignment of 200, CST in Science, Grades 9–11	0.05

Note: For CAHSEE, grades eleven and twelve are counted only if the student passed. Test weights are not shown as percentages and do not total 1.00.

Test Weights and Content Area Weights

The test results used in calculating an API have different relative emphases for each school or LEA. The amount of schoolwide or LEA-wide emphasis each content area has in the API is called the content area weight. Content area weights are determined according to the statewide test weights applied and the number of valid scores included in the API for each type of test. A school’s or an LEA’s content area weights are not needed in calculating the API, but they are provided on the API reports for information only so that each school and LEA can view the overall emphases specific to their school or LEA. Content area weights do not affect the score report an individual student receives.

The table below describes the key differences between test weights and content area weights used in calculating an API for a school, an LEA, or a student group.

Comparison of Test Weights and Content Area Weights

Question	Test Weights	Content Area Weights
Same weights for school, LEA, or student group APIs?	Yes. The test weights were set by the SBE and are the same for all school, LEA, and student group APIs. Test weights are applied according to the grade levels tested. Grades 2–8 have one set of weights, and grades 9–12 have a different set of weights.	No. The content area weights may vary among school, LEA, and student group APIs depending upon the grade levels tested, number of tests taken, number of valid scores, and degree of missing test data. Student group content area weights are not included in API reports.
Same weights for 2012 Base API and 2013 Growth API?	Yes. The test weights are the same in an API reporting cycle. The weights for the 2012 Base API are the same weights that are used for the 2013 Growth API.	No. The content area weights may vary slightly between the 2012 Base API and 2013 Growth API for the same reasons as the first answer above.
Do the weights total 100 percent?	No. The test weights are not shown as percentages and do not total 1.00.	Yes. The content area weights for a school or an LEA total 100 percent.

Scale Calibration Factors

The following table provides the 2012–13 API SCFs:

Grade Span Categories	SCF
Grade 2	28.43
Grades 3–5 Students with Disabilities Only	-33.34
Grades 3–5 Students with No Disabilities	22.71
Grade 6 Students with Disabilities Only	-44.75
Grade 6 Students with No Disabilities	28.39
Grades 7–8 Students with Disabilities Only	-25.72
Grades 7–8 Students with No Disabilities	39.08
Grades 9–11 Students with Disabilities Only	-12.43
Grades 9–11 Students with No Disabilities	17.50

SWDs for the SCF is defined as student records that show a valid primary disability code (other than 000) or take the CMA or CAPA. SWDs who are no longer receiving special education services are not included in the SCF calculations.

SCFs are the same within each API reporting cycle; therefore, the SCFs for the 2012 Base API are the same as the SCFs for the 2013 Growth API.

Purpose of the SCF

The purpose of the SCF is to preserve the API scale and maintain consistency in the statewide average API from one reporting cycle to the next. The SCF provides a positive or negative adjustment to each API each year.

The SCF for a grade span is the difference between the statewide average Growth and Base APIs for that grade span for the same year's test data. For example, the SCF for grade two is calculated by subtracting the statewide 2012 Base API for grade two from the statewide 2013 Growth API for grade two, which results in 28.43 in this case. This SCF would be added to a school's, an LEA's, or a student group's API calculation for grade two. The other SCFs would be calculated and used in the same way for the other grade span categories. When calculating the SCFs shown above, however, the CDE excludes some schools (i.e., those in the ASAM, small schools, and schools with data problems).

Although the SCF maintains the consistency in the statewide average API, it does not preserve comparability across reporting cycles. As a result, the SCF does not allow for comparisons of school, LEA, or student group APIs across reporting cycles.

Bridge Schools or LEAs

Some schools or LEAs (referred to as "bridge schools or LEAs") have grade spans that overlap the SCF categories. In these cases, the API is the weighted average of the APIs for the grade span segments, weighted by the total test weight for students with valid STAR Program scores in the segments. For example, the API for an LEA with kindergarten through grade twelve is the weighted average of the APIs of all of the SCF grade span segments. The API for a school with kindergarten through grade five is the weighted average of the APIs of the applicable SCF grade span segments: grade two, grades three through five (SWD only), and grades three through five (SWD not included).

API Targets

Growth targets are established in the Base API report for schools and for numerically significant student groups in the school. Although API reports are provided for LEAs in order to meet federal requirements under ESEA, LEAs do not have API growth targets.

Statewide API Performance Target

The SBE is responsible for establishing an API statewide performance target. The SBE has established an API score of 800 as the target to which all schools should aspire. The scale for the API ranges from 200 to 1000.

School and Student Group API Growth Targets

To meet all state API growth target requirements, a school and each numerically significant student group in the school must meet its growth target each year. The annual API growth target is calculated in the same way for a school or for a student group. The minimum target is 5 percent of the difference between the school's or student group's Base API and the statewide performance target of 800 until the API approaches 800.

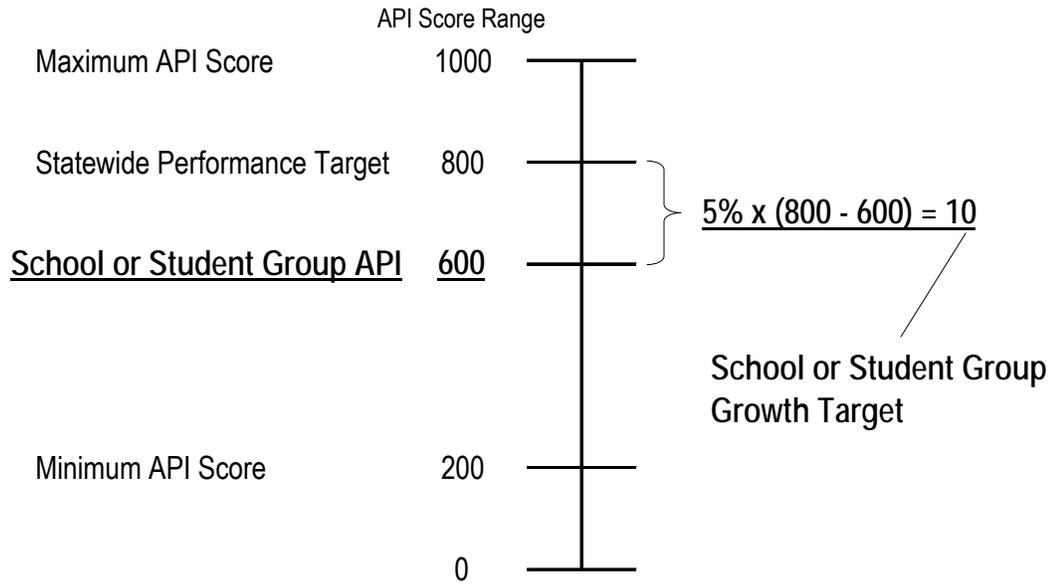
The specific API growth target requirement for a school or numerically significant student group is defined as follows:

Chart of School and Student Group Growth Target Requirements

Growth Target for Base APIs 200 to 690	Growth Target for Base APIs 691 to 795	Growth Target for Base APIs 796 to 799	Growth Target for Base APIs 800 or more
5% difference between Base API and 800	5-point gain	796 4-point gain 797 3-point gain 798 2-point gain 799 1-point gain	Maintain 800 or more

Growth targets are rounded to the nearest whole number. API growth targets under state requirements are different from targets for meeting federal AYP requirements.

Example of API Growth Target



A student group must be numerically significant in both the Base year and Growth year in an API reporting cycle to have student group growth and target information. A student group Growth API, however, is posted even if a student group had no prior year Base API or was not numerically significant for the prior year in order to meet ESEA requirements. In this case, growth targets and actual growth are not appropriate and, therefore, are omitted from the reports.

Differences in State and Federal Accountability Target Criteria

The API is used in both state and federal accountability criteria, but the requirements for the API vary. In order to meet its API growth target under current state requirements, a school must increase its API score by 5 percent of the difference between the school API and 800 or maintain its API score at or above 800. In order to meet the API indicator in AYP, however, a school or an LEA must attain a minimum API or API growth of at least one point.

API Growth

Growth in the API is calculated by subtracting the Base API from the Growth API within a reporting cycle. The following example shows this calculation for the school overall and for each numerically significant student group at the school for the 2012–13 API reporting cycle.

Example of 2012–13 API Growth

Group	2012 Base API	2013 Growth API	2012–13 API Growth	2012–13 Growth Target	Met Growth Target?
Schoolwide	700	720	20	5	Yes
Black or African American	730	740	10	5	Yes
Asian	810	800	–10	A	Yes
Hispanic or Latino	680	686	6	6	Yes
White	750	754	4	5	No

The "2012–13 API Growth" column shows the amount of actual growth in the API from 2012 to 2013. The "2012–13 Growth Target" column shows the target goal for the API to grow between 2012 and 2013 testing. An "A" in this column means the school or student group had a 2012 Base API at or above the statewide performance target of 800. In these cases, the school or student group target is to maintain an API of 800 or above. The growth target for the Black or African American student group and for the White student group is 5 points because the minimum growth target is 5 points until the Base API approaches 800. The last column shows whether or not the school and student groups met their growth targets.

To meet all of its API targets, a school must meet or exceed its schoolwide growth target and each numerically significant student group at the school must meet or exceed its student group growth target.

Meeting or Not Meeting State API Growth Targets

The API is used to meet state requirements under the PSAA and federal AYP requirements under ESEA. Under state requirements, if a school meets certain API participation and growth criteria, it may be eligible to become a California Distinguished School, National Blue Ribbon School, or Title I Academic Achievement Award School. If a school does not meet or exceed its growth targets and is ranked in the lower part of the statewide distribution of the Base API, it may be identified for participation in state intervention programs, which are designed to help the school improve its academic performance. Under federal ESEA requirements, the API is one of the indicators for AYP.

Interventions

Schools that do not meet state API growth target requirements may be subject to new or continued intervention programs. For more information about requirements and programs, contact the Improvement and Accountability Division of the CDE by phone at 916-319-0926 or refer to the CDE District and School Interventions Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/lp/>.

Awards

Schools that meet certain API requirements can apply for various recognition or awards programs. For more information on these programs, contact the following offices:

■ Schools

California Distinguished Schools Program

Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
awards@cde.ca.gov
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/>

National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
awards@cde.ca.gov
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/br/>

Title I Academic Achievement Awards Program

Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

awards@cde.ca.gov

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/aa/>

California Schools to Watch™—Taking Center Stage

K–12 Innovation and Improvement Office
California Department of Education

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/mg/>

API Ranks

California's *EC* Section 52056(a) requires API ranking of schools. Key features of API ranks include the following:

- Ranks are established by deciles. Deciles are ten categories of equal size from ten (highest) to one (lowest).
- Two types of API ranks are reported, a statewide rank and a similar schools rank. A school's Base API is used to determine its rank. This is done separately for elementary, middle, and high schools.
- API ranks are reported in the Base API reports.
- A school's rank may improve when it's API score increases, depending upon whether the APIs of all other schools increase.
- All LEAs, special education centers, and ASAM schools receive APIs but do not receive ranks.
- Small schools having between 11 and 99 valid STAR Program scores receive a statewide rank with an asterisk. These small schools are not included in calculating ranks for non-small schools but receive statewide ranks with an asterisk to indicate the rank into which their APIs would have fallen if they had been included in the ranking system. These small schools also do not receive similar schools ranks.

The following table summarizes the API ranking system:

Statewide API Ranks Compared with Similar Schools API Ranks

Statewide Ranks	Similar Schools Ranks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Calculated separately by school type (elementary, middle, high school) ■ School's API compared to all other schools in the state of the same type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Calculated separately by school type (elementary, middle, high school) ■ School's API compared to 100 other schools of the same type with a mix of similar demographic characteristics

School Type for API Purposes

State law requires that the statewide and similar schools ranking for the API include three categories: elementary, middle, and high. As a result, school type designations of elementary, middle, and high impact the calculations of the decile ranks. They do not impact the calculation of a school's API score for the Base or the Growth since that is determined according to test weights rather than school type.

■ **How School Type is Determined**

This section describes the basic steps the CDE uses to determine school type for API reporting.

Step 1: Grade span is used to assign school type.

In the California Public School Directory database, the CDE lists a school's grade span according to the lowest and highest grade in which student enrollment was reported in the most recent certified CALPADS data collection. For most schools, the API school type can be determined according to the following table.

**Grade Span Criteria
for API School Type Classification**

School Type Assigned for API	Grade Span Served
Elementary	K-K, K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, K-5, K-6, K-7, K-8 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 5-5, 5-6 6-6
Middle	4-8 5-7, 5-8 6-7, 6-8, 6-9 7-7, 7-8, 7-9 8-8, 8-9
High	7-10, 7-11, 7-12 8-10, 8-11, 8-12 9-9, 9-10, 9-11, 9-12 10-10, 10-11, 10-12 11-11, 11-12 12-12

Step 2: Enrollment is used to assign school type.

Some schools have grade spans that are much broader than those listed in Step 1. For example, a kindergarten through grade twelve school serves elementary, middle, and high school students.

School Type Determined by Enrollment

School Type Assigned for API	Grade Span Served
Determined by Enrollment	K–9, K–10, K–11, K–12 1–9, 1–10, 1–11, 1–12 2–9, 2–10, 2–11, 2–12 3–9, 3–10, 3–11, 3–12 4–9, 4–10, 4–11, 4–12 5–9, 5–10, 5–11, 5–12 6–10, 6–11, 6–12

In these cases, school type is determined according to the school's enrollment pattern. School type based on enrollment is determined according to "core" grade spans:

Core Grade Spans for Determining API School Type

School Type	Core Grade Span Served
Elementary	K–5
Middle	7–8
High	9–12

Note: Grade six is left out of the core grade span designations. Because some schools view grade six as "elementary" while others view it as "middle," the process remains neutral on whether grade six is considered one or the other.

Schools with a grade span that crosses three core spans (e.g., kindergarten through grade twelve or kindergarten through grade ten) are assigned a school type according to the largest enrollment in a core grade span. For example, a school with grades kindergarten through twelve has enrollment of 106 students in the kindergarten through grade five span; 192 students in the seven and eight span; and 52 students in the nine through twelve span. Since the enrollment in grades seven and eight is the largest of the three core grade spans, the school is assigned a "middle" school type. If the enrollment for two core grade spans is equal, the school type is equal to the previous year's API school type.

"Enrollment" under Step 2 is defined as the number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve, as reported in the most recent certified CALPADS data collection. (Enrollment and/or testing counts by grade level from the most recent STAR Program reports may be used if CALPADS information is unavailable.)

Step 3: School name or characteristics is used to assign school type.

In a very small number of cases, a school may not have a current grade span or enrollment on file at the CDE. In these situations, the school type may be assigned based on the grade tested on the STAR file. Absent the pertinent

indicators used to determine a school’s type, a school type of elementary will be assigned for API purposes. If the school is new and has no test results for the year of the API, the school does not receive an API.

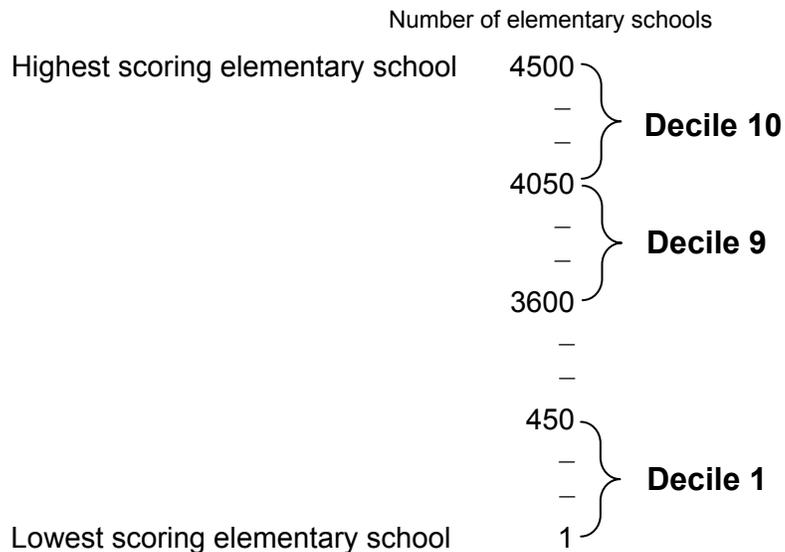
■ **Other School Type Issues**

The school type for the Base API is determined from the prior year CALPADS data. The school type for the Growth API in the reporting cycle is determined from current year's CALPADS data so that the Growth API school type matches the AYP school type. As a result, the Base API school type may differ from the Growth API school type for some schools. For more information about school type, contact the AAU by phone at 916-319-0863 or by e-mail at aau@cde.ca.gov.

Statewide Decile Rank

To calculate the statewide ranks, schools with 100 or more valid test scores are first sorted by type: elementary, middle, and high. For each of the three categories, schools' API scores are sorted from highest to lowest. Next, the list of API scores is divided into ten equal groups (deciles) ranked from highest (ten) to lowest (one). A school's statewide rank is determined by which of the ten deciles it’s API falls within. Schools with 11 to 99 valid scores are assigned ranks based on the cut scores established for non-small schools are marked with an asterisk. In the following example, there are a total of 4,500 elementary school APIs, and 450 elementary school APIs are in each decile. An elementary school ranked in decile 10 would have an API that is in the top 10 percent of elementary school APIs in the state.

Example of Statewide Decile Ranking



A statewide rank shows a school’s relative API placement statewide by school type. It is a quick way of recognizing where a school’s API fits in a statewide distribution of API

scores of schools of the same type.

Similar Schools Decile Rank

A similar schools rank is like the statewide rank except that the distribution is smaller because it only includes 100 schools. A similar schools rank shows a school's relative placement compared to 100 other schools with similar opportunities and challenges. The 100 similar schools are selected based on a number of demographic characteristics.

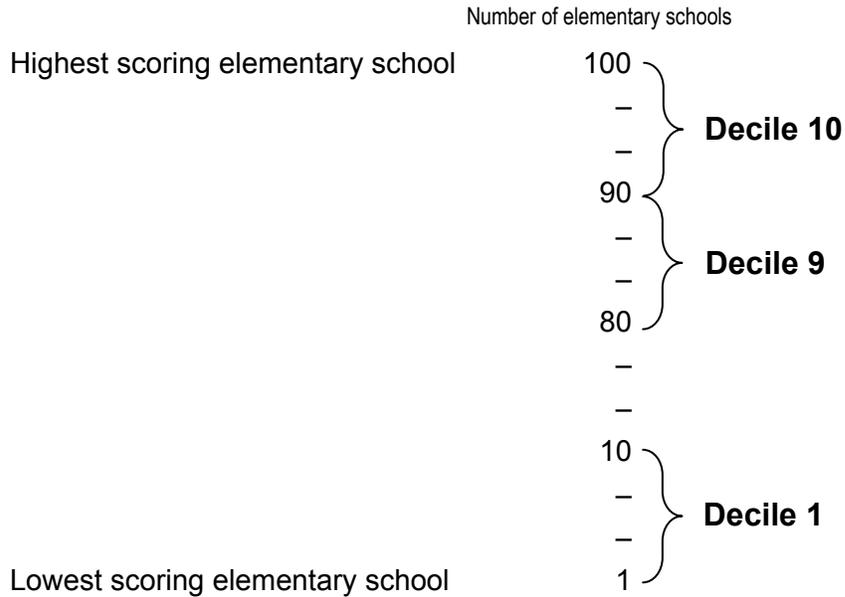
To calculate similar schools ranks, four basic steps are used:

Steps to Calculate Similar Schools Rank

Step	Description
1	Obtain demographic variables and Base APIs and categorize by school type: elementary, middle, and high.
2	Calculate the Schools Characteristics Index (SCI) for each school. An SCI is a composite number between 100 and 200 representing the school's demographic characteristics. (The characteristics are listed on pages 59 through 60.) It is calculated through a statistical procedure based on all of the factors included.
3	Find each school's 100 similar schools. A comparison group of 100 similar schools is formed for the school, based on SCIs that are close in numerical value. The SCIs are sorted from highest to lowest. The comparison group is formed by taking the 50 schools with SCIs just above the school's SCI and the 50 just below. If the SCI is in the top or bottom 50 of the statewide distribution, the group becomes the top or bottom 100.
4	Sort by APIs and determine the similar schools rank. The school's similar schools rank is calculated by sorting from highest to lowest the Base APIs of the comparison group of 100 similar schools and then dividing the sorted APIs into ten equal groups (or deciles), from highest (ten) to lowest (one). A school's similar schools rank is determined by which of the ten deciles its API falls within.

In the example on the next page, there are a total of 100 elementary schools, and 10 elementary schools are in each decile. An elementary school with a similar schools rank of 10 would have an API that is in the top 10 percent of the 100 other elementary schools with similar opportunities and challenges.

Example of Similar Schools Decile Ranking



Each school that receives a similar schools rank has its own unique similar schools comparison group. A detailed description of the calculation of similar schools ranks is described in *Construction of California's 1999 Schools Characteristics Index and Similar Schools Ranks* located on the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>. Descriptive statistics and correlation tables (for the prior three years' similar schools calculations) can be accessed within each Base and Growth reporting cycle link, shown under "Previous API Documentation" on the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>.

Schools Characteristics Index

The SCI is the API adjusted by the demographic characteristics of a school. It is calculated through a statistical procedure called multiple regression that produces a single index based on all of the factors included. In order to avoid confusion with the API, the SCI score range is between 100 and 200.

Schools with SCIs that are close in numerical value tend to face similar educational challenges and opportunities and are considered similar for API similar schools ranks purposes. Nevertheless, SCIs are calculated using many demographic characteristics. Each school has a unique combination of demographic characteristics. Even if schools appear quite similar in some characteristics, they may differ with respect to others. Small differences in two schools' demographic characteristics can result in different SCIs and, therefore, in different comparison groups and ranks.

Similar Schools Demographic Characteristics Definitions

Characteristic	Operational Definition	Data Source
Student mobility	Student mobility is defined as the percentage of students who were not continuously enrolled from the Fall Census Day data collection date through the first day of STAR Program testing.	CALPADS
Student race/ethnicity (8 variables)	<p>Percentage of students in the school in each race and ethnicity category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black or African American • American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Filipino • Hispanic or Latino • Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander • White • Two or More Races <p>Percentages for race and ethnicity categories may not total 100 due to responses of "Other" or "Decline to State" and rounding.</p>	CALPADS and 2012 STAR Program student answer document
Student socioeconomic status (2 variables)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average of all parent educational level responses for the school where the following scale is used: "1" = "Not high school graduate" "2" = "High school graduate" "3" = "Some college" "4" = "College graduate" "5" = "Graduate school/post graduate training" • Percentage of students in the school who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program, also known as the NSLP 	CALPADS and 2012 STAR Program student answer document
Percentage of students who are ELs	Percentage of students in the school who are classified as ELs	CALPADS and 2012 STAR Program student answer document
Average class size	<p>The grade spans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-3 • 4-6 • Core 	CALPADS
Whether the school operates a multi-track year-round education (MTYRE) program	<p>The school is categorized as follows: "0" = "Does not operate a MTYRE program" or "1" = "Operates a MTYRE program"</p>	CBEDS-Online Reporting Application (ORA) collection

Characteristic	Operational Definition	Data Source
Percentage of grade span enrollments (3 or 4 variables)	Percentage of the following: Elementary Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 2 enrollment • Grade 6 enrollment • Grades 7 and 8 enrollment • Grades 9–11 enrollment Middle Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 2 enrollment • Grades 3–5 enrollment • Grade 6 enrollment • Grades 9–11 enrollment High Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 2 enrollment • Grades 3–5 enrollment • Grade 6 enrollment • Grades 7 and 8 enrollment 	2012 STAR Program student answer document
Percentage of students in gifted and talented education (GATE) program	Percentage of student participation in specially funded GATE program	2012 STAR Program student answer document
Percentage of SWD	Percentage of students with a valid disability code	CALPADS and 2012 STAR Program student answer document
Percentage of RFEP students	Percentage of student's English proficiency shown as RFEP	CALPADS and 2012 STAR Program student answer document
Percentage of migrant education students	Percentage of students participating in specially funded migrant education program	2012 STAR Program student answer document

Note: Data on the percentage of teachers who are fully credentialed and percentage of teachers who hold emergency credentials are not available for 2012.

General Description of Similar Schools Rankings

California public schools serve students with many different backgrounds and needs. As a result, schools operate within different educational environments. The similar schools ranks allow schools to look at their academic performance compared to other schools with some of the same opportunities and challenges.

Rank	General Description of Similar School Rankings
9 or 10	This school's API is: Well-above average for elementary, middle, or high schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics
7 or 8	Above average for elementary, middle, or high schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics
5 or 6	About average for elementary, middle, or high schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics
3 or 4	Below average for elementary, middle, or high schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics
1 or 2	Well-below average for elementary, middle, or high schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics

California Department of Education Contacts and Related Internet Pages

Topics	Contact Office	Web Page
	Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division 916-319-0869	
• ESEA Title I Accountability Requirements		http://www.cde.ca.gov/nclb/fr/
• AYP Appeals, Accountability Workbook, and ASAM	Evaluation, Research, and Analysis Unit 916-322-3245 evaluation@cde.ca.gov asam@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/ http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/am/
• API and AYP Calculations	Academic Accountability Unit 916-319-0863 aau@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/ http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/
• ESEA Title III Accountability	Title III Accountability 916-323-3071 amao@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/t3/
	Assessment Development and Administration Division 916-319-0572	
• STAR Program – CST, CMA, CAPA, and STS	STAR Program and Assessment Transition Office 916-445-8765 star@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/ http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/cmastar.asp http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/capa.asp http://www.startest.org/sts.html
• CAHSEE	High School and Physical Fitness Assessment Office 916-445-9449 cahsee@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/

Topics	Contact Office	Web Page
	Improvement and Accountability Division 916-319-0926	
• ESEA Requirements for PI and Technical Assistance for Schools in PI	Title I Policy and Program Guidance Office 916-319-0917	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/programimprov.asp
• Technical Assistance for LEAs in PI	District Innovation and Improvement Office 916-319-0836	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/leapireq.asp
• Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA)	School Turnaround Office 916-319-0833	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/lp/qe/
	Educational Data Management Division 916-324-1214	
• Information on CALPADS	CALPADS/CBEDS/CDS Operations Office 916-324-6738 calpads@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/index.asp
• Access to DataQuest	Data Reporting Office 916-327-0193	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/
• Educational Options	Coordinated Student Support and Adult Education Division Educational Options, Student Support, and American Indian Office 916-323-2183	http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/
• Special Education Programmatic Issues Related to Assessment	Special Education Division Assessment, Evaluation, and Support Office 916-445-4628	http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/
• Charter Schools	Charter Schools Division 916-322-6029 charters@cde.ca.gov	http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cs/

Acronyms

AAU	Academic Accountability Unit
AEP	Alternative Education Program
AMARD	Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division
API	Academic Performance Index
APR	Accountability Progress Reporting
ASAM	Alternative Schools Accountability Model
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
CAHSEE	California High School Exit Examination
CALPADS	California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System
CAPA	California Alternate Performance Assessment
CBEDS	California Basic Educational Data System
CDE	California Department of Education
CD	County-District Code
CDS	County-District-School Code
CELDT	California English Language Development Test
CMA	California Modified Assessment
CST	California Standards Test
EC	<i>Education Code</i>
ED	U.S. Department of Education
EL	English learner
ELA	English–language arts
ERA	Evaluation, Research, and Analysis Unit
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act
ETS	Educational Testing Service
5 CCR	<i>California Code of Regulations, Title 5</i>
GATE	Gifted and Talented Education
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Program
LEA	Local Educational Agency
MTYRE	Multi-Track Year-Round Education

ODS	Operational Data Store
NSLP	National School Lunch Program
PI	Program Improvement
PSAA	Public Schools Accountability Act
RFEP	Reclassified Fluent-English-Proficient
SB	Senate Bill
SBE	State Board of Education
SCF	Scale Calibration Factor
SCI	Schools Characteristics Index
SSID	Statewide Student Identifier
SSPI	State Superintendent of Public Instruction
STAR	Standardized Testing and Reporting
SC	Special Conditions
SWD	Students with Disabilities