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Parent and Guardian Guide to California's 2009–10 Accountability Progress Reporting System

The primary goal of California's Accountability Progress Reporting (APR) system is to measure and report the academic success of California's nearly 10,000 public schools in over 1,000 school districts and local educational agencies (LEAs). The system includes three major components:

- The Academic Performance Index (API) Report
- The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Report
- The Program Improvement (PI) Report

The California Department of Education (CDE) prepares these reports on each school, school district, and LEAs. The reports are available on the CDE APR Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/>.

API Report

The API Report is required by the state's Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) of 1999. This report shows how much a school is improving from year to year based on its API. A school's API is a number that ranges from 200 to 1000 and is calculated from the results for each school's students on statewide tests. The state has set 800 as the API target for all schools to meet. Schools that fall short of 800 are required to meet annual growth targets until that goal is achieved. API targets vary for each school.

The annual API growth target for a school is 5 percent of the difference between the school's API and the statewide performance target of 800 with a 5 point minimum. Schools that meet or exceed an 800 API are expected to maintain that level of achievement and to continue working to improve the academic performance of all students.

There are two API reports: (1) the Base API that is released to schools in the spring and (2) the Growth API that is released in the fall. These two reports show results from two different school years.

The Growth API is compared to the prior year Base API to show how much a school improved from one year to the next.

Schools must meet API growth targets for the whole school as well as for all "numerically significant" groups of students in the school (see explanation on page 2). Each Base API and Growth API Report includes the schoolwide API and the APIs for each numerically significant group of students. The Growth API Report determines whether schools met their targets.

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 to participate in state intervention programs. These programs are designed to help the school improve its academic performance.

AYP Report

The AYP Report is required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This report shows how well schools and school districts are meeting common standards of academic performance, as measured by whether the school or school district makes AYP. Required AYP targets increase yearly until 2013–14 when all schools must have 100 percent of their students performing at or above the proficient level on statewide tests. By law, all California schools and school districts receive annual AYP results.

Each year, schools and school districts must meet four sets of requirements to make AYP. The requirements reflect statewide performance levels and are the same for all schools and school districts of the same type (see table on next page).

