



Determining Charter School Performance Category

March 2025

Pursuant to California *Education Code (EC)* Section 47607(c), as an additional criterion for determining whether to grant a charter renewal, the chartering authority shall consider a charter school's placement under performance categories based on the charter school's performance on the California School Dashboard (Dashboard).

The following two criteria are used to determine the performance category (i.e., High, Middle, or Low) of a charter school:

1. **Criterion 1:** Based on the performance colors received for **all** of the state indicators on the Dashboard for the two previous Dashboard years. The Dashboard state indicators are:
 - English language arts/literacy (ELA),
 - Mathematics,
 - Chronic Absenteeism Indicator,
 - English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI),
 - Graduation Rate Indicator,
 - College/Career Indicator (CCI), and
 - Suspension Rate Indicator.
2. **Criterion 2:** Based on the "Status" (also known as current year data) for all academic indicators with a performance color for the two previous Dashboard years. Note that per California *EC* Section 47607(c)(3), academic indicators are defined as:
 - ELA,
 - Mathematics,
 - ELPI, and
 - CCI.

Details on each of the criteria appear below. Schools that meet neither the High nor Low performing levels under Criterion 1 or 2 above are automatically placed in the Middle performance category.

Determining the Performance Category

As noted earlier, data for the two previous Dashboard years are used to make performance category determinations. Therefore, for this current release, the 2023 and 2024 Dashboards are used.

The 2023 Dashboard performance for the CCI indicator was reported using one of five Status levels due to modifications made in state law to the accountability system during the COVID 19 pandemic. Therefore, as expressed in the bullets below, Status levels were used as a proxy for performance colors on the 2023 Dashboard where there were at least 30 students.

- Status Level Very Low = Red
- Status Level Low = Orange
- Status Level Medium= Yellow
- Status Level High = Green
- Status Level Very High = Blue

Charter schools that received a 2024 Dashboard but closed during the 2024-25 school year have been removed from consideration of receiving performance categories. Schools that had a charter status in 2023-24 but changed its status to non-charter during the 2024-25 school year were also removed from consideration of receiving performance categories.

Criterion 1 (Performance Colors)

The following conditions apply for charter school renewal under Criterion 1:

- Must have at least two academic indicators (i.e., ELA, Mathematics, CCI, and/or ELPI) at the school level in each of the two Dashboard years. (The two academic indicators do not need to be the same indicators each year.)

Charter schools that meet the following conditions are determined to be High or Low performing, based on the color assignments at the school level:

- **High Performing:** The school has Blue and/or Green on **all** state indicators for two years: Eligible for presumptive renewal.
- **Low Performing:** The school has Red and/or Orange on **all** state indicators for two years: Eligible for presumptive non-renewal.

Charter schools that do not meet Criterion 1 requirements for presumptive renewal or non-renewal are subject to Criterion 2.

Criterion 2 (Status)

The following conditions apply for charter school renewal under Criterion 2:

1. Limited to academic indicators (i.e., ELA, Mathematics, CCI, and ELPI).
2. Limited to only those academic indicators with a color (Note: Status levels were used as a proxy for performance colors on the 2023 Dashboard CCI).

Performance determinations under Criterion 2 are based on the **overall Status** for both the charter school and its student groups, and how they compare with the statewide averages for the two previous Dashboard years. The state's Status is used as the "statewide average" for the academic indicators.

Determinations for Presumptive Renewal/High Performing

1. For **schools** that have a performance color for all academic indicators, the school received an overall Status that is the same or higher than the overall Status for the State of California.
2. For each academic indicator, remove the **student groups** that performed higher than or at the same level as the statewide average.
 - a. For the 2024 Charter School Performance Category Data File, the student groups that performed higher or at the same level were: White, Asian, Filipino, Two or More Races. *(Note: The ELPI did not have student groups for the 2023 Dashboard; however, the school must have a higher Status than that of the statewide average.)*
3. For each academic indicator, after removing the student groups in step 2 above, identify the student groups with a color that scored higher than their respective student group statewide average (i.e., received a higher Status score on the indicator).
4. Each school must have **at least two** remaining student groups that receive a color. (Note that the total number of student groups can be across the two previous Dashboard years.)
5. The student groups must have **at least two** academic indicators in each of the two Dashboard years. (The two academic indicators do not need to be the same indicator each year.)
6. **To be placed in the High Performing Category**, for each academic indicator for each year, the school must have a majority of student groups scoring higher than

the statewide average for their respective student group. *(Note: If the school does not have two remaining student groups, the school is placed in the Middle performance category.)*

Determinations for Presumptive Non-Renewal/Low Performing

1. For **schools** that have a performance color for all academic indicators, the school received an overall Status that is the same or lower than the overall state average.
2. For each academic indicator, remove the **student groups** that performed higher than or at the same level as the statewide average.
 - a. For the 2024 Charter School Performance Category Data File, the student groups that performed higher or at the same level were: White, Asian, Filipino, Two or More Races. *(Note: The ELPI did not have student groups for the 2023 Dashboard; however, the school must have a higher Status than that of the statewide average.)*
3. For each academic indicator, after removing the student groups in step 2 above, identify the student groups that scored lower than their respective student group statewide average (i.e., received a lower Status score on the indicator).
4. Each school must have **at least two** remaining student groups that receive a color. (Note that the total number of student groups can be across the two previous Dashboard years.)
5. The student groups must have at least two academic indicators in each of the two Dashboard years. (The two academic indicators do not need to be the same indicator each year.)
6. To be placed in the **Low Performing Category**, for each academic indicator for each year, the school must have a majority of student groups scoring lower than the statewide average for their respective student group. *(Note: If the school does not have two remaining student groups, the school is placed in the Middle performance category.)*

Middle Performance

Charter schools that meet neither the High nor Low performing categories under Criterion 1 or 2 are automatically placed in the Middle performance category.

Exclusion of Schools with Dashboard Alternative Schools Status (DASS)

DASS charter schools have their own renewal criteria. Therefore, the High, Middle, or Low performance categories are not determined for these schools. As a result, they are not included in the 2024 Charter School Performance Category Data File.

For more information on the renewal criteria for DASS schools, refer to the CDE [Dashboard Alternative School Status](#) web page.

To determine which charter schools are DASS, download the Current DASS Schools data file posted on the CDE [Active DASS Schools](#) web page.

Resources

For more information regarding performance categories, please refer to the California Department of Education [Performance Categories](#) web page.

All files and data needed to create the performance categories list can be found in the Dashboard downloadable data files posted on the CDE [Dashboard Resources](#) web page.

The statute on charter school renewals can be found on the [California Legislative Information](#) web page.