

How Colors Are Determined

The California School Dashboard (Dashboard) reports how districts, schools, and student groups perform on multiple state and local measures that make up California's accountability system. The results are used to identify strengths and weaknesses and help ensure that the needs of all students are met.

How does the Dashboard display performance?

Performance is based on two factors:

- Current year data for the measure (Status)
- Difference between current year and prior year data (Change)

Current year data levels are displayed in the left column, while the levels for the difference between current year and prior year data are displayed in the top row in the five-by-five table. The Performance Level, or color, is determined by the point at which these two levels intersect. Colors range from red, which represents the lowest Performance Level, to blue, which represents the highest Performance Level. Performance calculations are done for each state measure and intersect on a five-by-five table. The table layout and color placement vary for each measure and can be viewed on the [California Department of Education \(CDE\) Five-by-Five Colored Tables web page](#).

Level	Declined Significantly	Declined	Maintained	Increased	Increased Significantly
Very High	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue
High	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue
Medium	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
Low	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
Very Low	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange



Red



Orange



Yellow



Green



Blue

Lowest Performance

Highest Performance

In the example five-by-five table above, the school's current year data falls into the "High" level. It maintained this level, which means that there was no increase or decline in results from the prior year. "High" and "Maintained" intersect, or meet, for an overall Performance Level of green. Schools (including charter schools) and local educational agencies (including districts and county offices of education [COEs]) are assigned a Performance Level/color when they have sufficient students in both the current and prior year denominators—defined as 30 or more students for the all-students level and most student groups, with an exception for districts/COEs where homeless, foster youth, and long-term English learner student groups require at least 15 students.

For more information, please visit the [CDE California School Dashboard and System of Support web page](#).

Contact the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division by email at dashboard@cde.ca.gov.



August 2026