

Suspension Rate Indicator



On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools serving transitional kindergarten through grade twelve students receive a Suspension Rate Indicator. This indicator shares information about the number of students who have a combined total suspension of at least one full day during the school year. A student is counted only once in the suspension rate regardless of the number of suspensions or the total days suspended.

For most state indicators, the desired outcome is a high percentage of performance in the current year and an increase from the prior year. However, for the Suspension Rate Indicator, the desired outcome is having a low percentage of students suspended for a combined total of at least one full day in the current year and a decrease from the prior year to receive a Green or Blue on the Dashboard.

Calculating Current Year Data (Status)

Unduplicated* number of students suspended for a combined total of at least one full day (total duration of all suspensions)



Divided by

Cumulative enrollment**



Equals

Suspension rate

*Unduplicated means that a student who has been suspended multiple times is counted in the numerator only once as long as the combined total suspension length is at least one full day.

**Cumulative enrollment is the total number of students who were enrolled for at least one day at any time during the school year.

Comparing Current and Prior Year Data (Change)

Current and prior year data are compared to determine how an LEA's suspension rate changed.

Current year Status

Minus

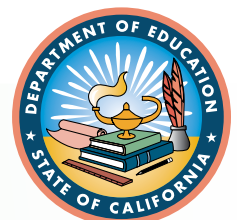
Prior year Status

Current year data and its comparison with prior year data are taken together to determine a Performance Level, or color. Access the flyer about [How Dashboard Colors are Determined on the California Department of Education \(CDE\) Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page](#).

Suspension rates are different across LEA type (elementary, high, and unified) and school type (elementary, middle, and high). For example, middle schools often have higher suspension rates than elementary schools. For more information, visit the [CDE Five-by-Five Colored Tables web page](#). Please note that the tables used for the Long-Term English Learner (LTEL) student group were modified in 2026.

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.



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