

What is the Three-by-Five Table?

The California School Dashboard (Dashboard) shows performance of local educational agencies (LEAs), schools, and student groups on a set of state and local indicators that assist in identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas in need of improvement. Typically, performance for state indicators is determined through the use of a five-by-five colored table, which results in one of five Performance Levels (or colors): Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, and Blue.

However, in cases where the number of students for an LEA, school, or student group is small, the Dashboard utilizes a three-by-five colored table to determine performance. The three-by-five table prevents large swings in data year over year that are triggered by the results of a few students, which can lead to an over-identification of schools in the Red and Blue Performance Levels.

For the 2023 Dashboard, the three-by-five table will be applied to the following indicators based on the number of students included in the denominator.

Chronic Absenteeism

If fewer than 150 students meet the eligible enrollment requirement

Suspension Rate

If fewer than 150 cumulatively enrolled students

Graduation Rate

If fewer than 150 students are in the combined four- and five-year graduation rate

The three-by-five colored table is created by removing two Change levels, Increased Significantly and Decreased Significantly, thus limiting extreme changes when the count of students is small. The image below is a sample of a three-by-five table.

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

For information pertaining to the five-by-five colored table, please refer to the How Dashboard Colors are Determined flyer on the California Department of Education (CDE) Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardtoolkit.asp>. To access the three-by-five tables for the indicators noted above, please refer to the CDE 2023 Dashboard Technical Guide web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardguide23.asp>.

For more information, please visit the CDE California School Dashboard and System of Support web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/index.asp>.

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

