

Graduation Rate Indicator

On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), comprehensive (or traditional) high schools and Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) schools receive a combined four- and five-year graduation rate for the Graduation Rate Indicator. This rate is based on the number of high school students who graduate with a regular high school diploma in either four or five years. The 2024 Graduation Rate Indicator includes students from the most recent graduation cohort (Class of 2024) as well as students from the prior cohort (Class of 2023) who graduated in their fifth year of high school in 2023–24.

Note: Only students who receive a regular high school diploma are counted as graduates. Students who earn a Special Education Certificate of Completion, a California High School Equivalency Certificate, an adult education diploma, or pass the California High School Proficiency Examination are included as non-graduates. For information about the DASS graduation rate that is reported for informational purposes, access the California Department of Education (CDE) DASS web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/dass.asp>.

Calculating Current Year Data



Number of Students Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma within Four Years

Plus

Number of Students from Prior Cohort Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma within Five Years

Divided by



Total Number of Students in the Four-Year Graduation Cohort

Plus

Number of Students from Prior Cohort Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma within Five Years

Results will fall into one of five levels, ranging from “Very High” to “Very Low.”

Comparing Current and Prior Year Data

We compare current and prior year data to determine whether a school or district made improvement (i.e., had a higher rate of graduation in 2024 than it did in 2023) or experienced a decline.

Current Year Data

Minus

Prior Year Data

Results will fall into one of five levels, ranging from “Increased Significantly” to “Declined Significantly.”

After combining current year data and its comparison with prior year data, a Performance Level—or color—is given. Access the flyer about How Dashboard Colors are Determined on the CDE Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardtoolkit.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.

