

Suspension Rate Indicator

On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools that serve transitional kindergarten through grade twelve students receive a Suspension Rate Indicator based on the number of students who have a combined total suspension of at least one full day. 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 a low rate in the current year and a decrease from the prior year.

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

*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 a school or district's suspension rate changed.

Current year Status
(2024–25 suspension rate)

Minus

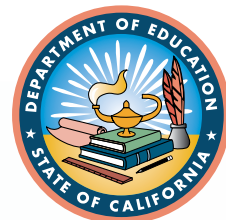
Prior year Status
(2023–24 suspension rate)

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

Multiple data simulations revealed that suspension data vary widely by LEA type (elementary, high, and unified) and school type (elementary, middle, and high). For example, suspension rates tend to be higher at the middle school level than at the elementary school level. Therefore, unlike other state indicators which use only LEA-level distributions to set the cut scores for Status and Change, the Suspension Rate Indicator uses both LEA- and school-level distributions.

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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