

Changes to Academic Indicator Participation Rate Calculation for the Dashboard

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all states to test at least 95 percent of all students and student groups in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. It also requires states to factor the participation rate into their accountability systems, which, for California, is the Academic Indicator. The Academic Indicator is based on the Smarter Balanced summative assessments and the California Alternate Assessments for ELA and mathematics. It currently **does not** include the science assessments.

For any local educational agency (LEA), school, or student group with less than 95 percent of students tested, the ESSA requires a penalty to be applied to the Academic Indicator. To meet this federal requirement, **beginning with the 2022 Dashboard**, California will assign the Lowest Obtainable Scale Score (LOSS) to each student needed to bring the participation rate of the school, district, and/or student group to 95 percent. The LOSS assigned to each of these students who did not test will be used in calculating the Distance from Standard (DFS). Note that the assignment of a LOSS to not tested students occurs only when the CDE calculates the Dashboard Academic Indicator. Students who did not test **will not** receive a LOSS on their individual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) student score reports or in the CAASPP Student Score Data File.

2022 Dashboard Participation Rate Calculation Using New Methodology

The **new** methodology looks at the number of students needed to bring the participation rate of the LEA, school, or student group to 95 percent. Each of these students will be assigned a DFS based on the assignment of the LOSS score.

- For ELA, a DFS of -279 will be applied to each student who is assigned the LOSS.
- For mathematics, a DFS of -247 will be applied to each student who is assigned the LOSS.

Example LEA Using New Participation Rate Penalty Calculation for ELA

LEA Information	New Participation Methodology
Number of students enrolled during the testing window in grades 3–8 and grade 11 and eligible to participate in the ELA summative and alternate assessments	355 students
Number of students needed to test in order to meet the 95% participation rate target	338 students ($355 \times 0.95 = 337.25$ rounded to 338)
Number of students tested	268 students
Difference between Row 2 (number of students needed to meet 95%) and Row 3 (number of students tested)	70 students (338 students needed – 268 students tested)
Participation rate penalty calculation	Each of the 70 students will be assigned a LOSS score and receive a DFS of -279 (DFS for ELA). $70 \times (-279) = -19,530$ penalty

LEA Information	New Participation Methodology
Adjusted DFS calculation Note: The sum of all tested students' DFS, before the penalty, is 4,355.	4,355 (DFS without penalty) minus 19,530 (participation rate penalty) = -15,175
Final DFS calculation	-15,175 divided by 338 (number of students needed to meet 95 percent target) = -44.9 The LEA's DFS is -44.9 points from Achievement Level 3 Standard Met.

Methodology for the Prior Participation Rate Penalty

The **prior methodology** (applied to the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Dashboards) looked at the **number of percentage points** that a district, school, or student group fell below the 95 percent participation rate target and applied a 0.25 penalty for each percentage point. The total penalty was then subtracted from the district's, school's, or student group's average DFS.

Example LEA Using *Prior Participation Rate Penalty Calculation for ELA*

LEA Information	Prior Participation Methodology
Number of students enrolled during the testing window in grades 3–8 and grade 11 and eligible to participate in the ELA summative and alternate assessments	355 students
Number of students tested	268 students
Participation rate	268 students ÷ 355 students = 76%
Number of percentage points that the LEA fell below the 95% target	95% – 76% = 19%
Participation rate penalty calculation	0.25 penalty for each percentage point that the LEA fell below the 95% target 19 × 0.25 = 4.75 point penalty
Adjusted and final DFS calculation Note: The LEA's average DFS, before the penalty, is +16.3.	+16.3 (DFS without penalty) minus 4.75 (participation rate penalty) = +11.6 The LEA's DFS is +11.6 points from Achievement Level 3 Standard Met.

A side-by-side comparison, below, highlights the potential impact that the new methodology will have on the LEA's DFS and status level assignments.

DFS without Penalty	DFS with Prior Participation Rate Penalty	DFS with 2022 Participation Rate Penalty Using LOSS
16.3	11.6 (LEA remains in High Status level)	-44.9 (LEA drops from High Status level to Low Status level)