

Changes to Academic Indicator Participation Rate Calculation for the Dashboard

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to test at least 95 percent of all students and student groups in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. It also requires states to factor the participation rate into the Academic Indicator. If an LEA, school, or student group does not meet the 95 percent participation rate target, there is a penalty.

Beginning in 2021, California will assign the Lowest Obtainable Scale Score (LOSS) for each student needed to bring the participation rate of the school, district, and/or student group to 95 percent. Each of these students will be assigned a Distance from Standard (DFS) based on the assignment of a LOSS:

- For English language arts/literacy (ELA), a DFS of -279 will be applied
- For mathematics, a DFS of -247 will be applied.

Methodology for the Prior Participation Rate Penalty

The **prior methodology** (applied to the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Dashboards) looks at the **number of percentage points** that a district, school, or student group falls below the 95 percent participation rate target and applies a .25 penalty for each percentage point. The total penalty is then subtracted from the district's, school's, or student group's average DFS.

LEA Example Using Prior Methodology

LEA Information	Prior Participation Methodology
Number of students enrolled in grades 3–8 and grade 11 and eligible to participate in the ELA summative assessments	327
Participation rate	79%
Number of percentage points that the LEA falls below the 95% target	$95\% - 79\% = 16\%$
Participation rate penalty calculation	0.25 penalty for each percentage point that the LEA falls below the 95% target $16 \times 0.25 = 4.0$ point penalty

Penalty: -4.0 points will be incorporated into the average DFS.

Adjusted DFS: If the LEA had an average DFS of +16.9, the adjusted DFS (after applying the participation rate penalty of -4.0 points) would be +12.9.

Status Level after Participation Rate Penalty Is Applied: In this example, the LEA continues to receive a High Status level, even after the participation rate penalty is applied.

New Methodology That Will Be Applied to the Participation Rate Calculation

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 a LOSS score. (For ELA, a DFS of -279 will be applied; for math, a DFS of -247 will be applied.)

LEA Elementary Example for ELA Using New Methodology

LEA Information	New Participation Methodology
Number of students enrolled in grades 3–8 and grade 11 and eligible to participate in the ELA summative assessments	327
Number of students needing to test in order to meet the 95% participation rate target (whole number rounding is used, 94.1% is rounded to 95%)	308 ($327 \times .941 = 308$ rounded)
Number of students tested	258
Difference between Row 2 (number of students needed to meet 95%) and Row 3 (number of students tested)	50 ($308 - 258 = 50$)
Participation rate penalty calculation	Each of the 50 students will receive a DFS of -279 (DFS for ELA). $50 \times (-279) = -13,950$

Penalty: -13,950 will be incorporated into the students DFS sum, as shown below.

Adjusted DFS: In this example, the LEA had a total DFS of 4,355 (before the penalty was applied). The participation rate penalty for the 50 students is -13,950. The calculation to determine the adjusted DFS is:

$$4,355 \text{ (DFS without penalty) } \textit{minus} \text{ } 13,950 \text{ (Participation Rate Penalty)} = -9,595$$

$$-9,595 \textit{ divided by } 308 \text{ (number of students needed to meet 95 percent target)} = -31.2$$

Status Level after Participation Rate Penalty Is Applied: In this example, the LEA drops from a High Status level of +16.9 to a Low Status level of -31.2.

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

DFS (without penalty)	Prior Methodology Based on Point Reduction	New Methodology Based on LOSS Penalty	Difference
16.9	12.9 (LEA remains in High Status level)	-31.2 (LEA drops from High Status level to Low Status level)	44.1 points