

Changes to District of Residence Rule for Students with Disabilities

The California School Dashboard (Dashboard) reports data on how local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools are meeting the needs of California’s diverse student population. For most student groups, the LEA in which a student resides will be the same LEA in which the student is receiving the majority of his or her instruction. However, students with disabilities (SWDs) often receive services outside their “district of residence.” The district of residence (also known as the “District of Special Education Accountability” [DSEA]) may be unable to provide the full range of special education services that the student requires and will often enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with another LEA or county office of education to provide these services. Which entity, then, is held accountable for the outcomes of the student, as reported on the Dashboard?

Which entity is accountable for students with disabilities?

In prior years, the district of residence was held accountable for the assessment results for only those SWDs who received services from a special education school in another LEA or a non-public school (NPS). In the 2019 Dashboard, the district of residence was held accountable for the performance on the Academic Indicator results of all SWDs, regardless of where they receive special education services. However, the LEA of Attendance (i.e., the LEA providing the services) continued to be held accountable for the student’s performance on the other state indicators.

Changes in the District of Residence Rule

Beginning with the 2021 Dashboard, the district of residence rule **will be expanded to include all state indicators**. This means that the state indicator data for all SWDs who receive special education services at another district or county office of education will be “sent back” to the district of residence (i.e., DSEA), and included in that LEA’s Dashboard. This ensures that the LEA that receives federal funding—under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—for a student will be held accountable for the outcomes of that student.

Please note that, at the school level, the **school of attendance** will continue to be held accountable for the student’s performance. The table below identifies the responsible entities.

Which entity is accountable for SWDs for the 2021 Dashboard and beyond?

State Indicator	School of Attendance	District of Special Education Accountability	District of Attendance	Charter School	Charter School Authorizer
Academic Performance	Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible
Suspension Rate	Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible

State Indicator	School of Attendance	District of Special Education Accountability	District of Attendance	Charter School	Charter School Authorizer
Chronic Absenteeism	Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible
Graduation Rate	Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible
College/Career Readiness	Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible
English Learner Progress	Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible	Responsible	Not Responsible

Additional Resources

LEAs can confirm which of their students were sent to other entities to receive appropriate special education services by downloading an extract from the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). This extract will identify which students are flagged with the “DSEA” field. For further information on this extract, the CALPADS DSEA field, and scenarios for determining which LEA is responsible for reporting SWD data, please view the following CDE CALPADS Communications web pages:

- CALPADS Flash #160: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/calpadsupdf160.asp>
- CALPADS Flash #161: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/calpadsupdf161.asp>
- Reporting Data for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/swdreporting.asp>