

# Graduation Rate Indicator

Comprehensive high schools receive a combined four- and five-year graduation rate, which is based on the number of students who graduate with a regular high school diploma in either four or five years. The 2019 Graduation Rate includes students from the most recent graduation cohort (Class of 2019) as well as students from the prior cohort (Class of 2018) who graduated in their fifth year of high school. This indicator applies to districts and schools with students in grades 9–12.

*Note: Students who earn a Special Education Certificate of Completion, a California High School Equivalency Certificate, or an adult education diploma are not counted for the graduation rate as receiving a regular high school diploma. For information about the graduation rate for alternative schools, see the DASS Graduation Rate flyer on the California Department of Education (CDE) website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/index.asp>, under the District Resources tab.*

## Calculating Current Year Data



Number of Students Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma within 4 years

+

Number of Students from Prior Cohort Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma within 5 years

**DIVIDED BY**



Total Number of Students in the Four-Year Graduation Cohort

+

Number of Students from Prior Cohort Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma within 5 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 see whether a school or district made improvement (i.e., had a higher rate of graduation in 2019 than it did in 2018) 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.”

Taken together—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 website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/howcolorsdetermine.pdf>.