

Science Indicator



On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), local education agencies (LEAs) and schools that serve students in grades five, eight, and high school will receive a Science Indicator with performance colors. Student performance on the California Science Test (CAST) and the California Alternate Assessment for Science (CAA for Science) are used to determine the results for this indicator. The Science Indicator is calculated using two components: Science Points (SPs) and participation rate.

Science Points

SPs are a simplified way to understand student performance on the CAST and CAA for Science. While each grade level has its own unique scale score range, SPs always range from 0 to 100. This makes it easier to interpret results across grades. A student's scale score is converted into SPs, where 0 is the lowest possible score and 100 is the highest possible score.

For students who take the CAA for Science, their scores are matched to the CAST through a crosswalk. If a student scores in Level 1, 2, or 3 on the CAA for Science, they are given the highest possible score for that same level on the CAST. This scale score is then used to figure out how many SPs the student earned.

Participation Rate

The California State Board of Education (SBE) adopted a participation rate requirement within the Science Indicator to require LEAs, schools, and student groups to test at least 95 percent of their students. If they fail to meet this target, a Lowest Obtainable Scale Score (LOSS) is assigned to each student needed to bring the participation rate of the LEAs, schools 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 average SPs. If an LEA, school, and/or student group participation rate is 95 percent or above, assigned LOSS is not applied. For further details, please refer to the Academic Indicator Participation Rate Calculation for the Dashboard flyer which can be found on the [California Department of Education \(CDE\) Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page](#).

Differentiated Assistance Determinations on the 2025 Dashboard

The Science Indicator will not be used for state or federal support determinations based on the 2025 Dashboard and will be displayed for informational purposes.

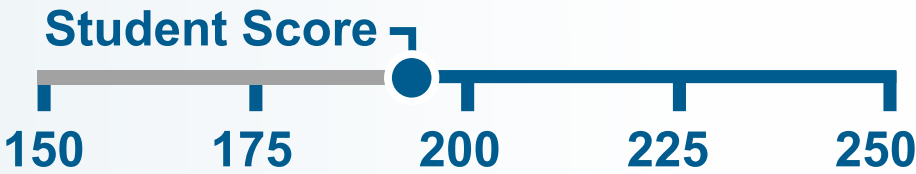
Calculating Current Year Data (Status)

Status for the Science Indicator will be calculated using a two-step process:

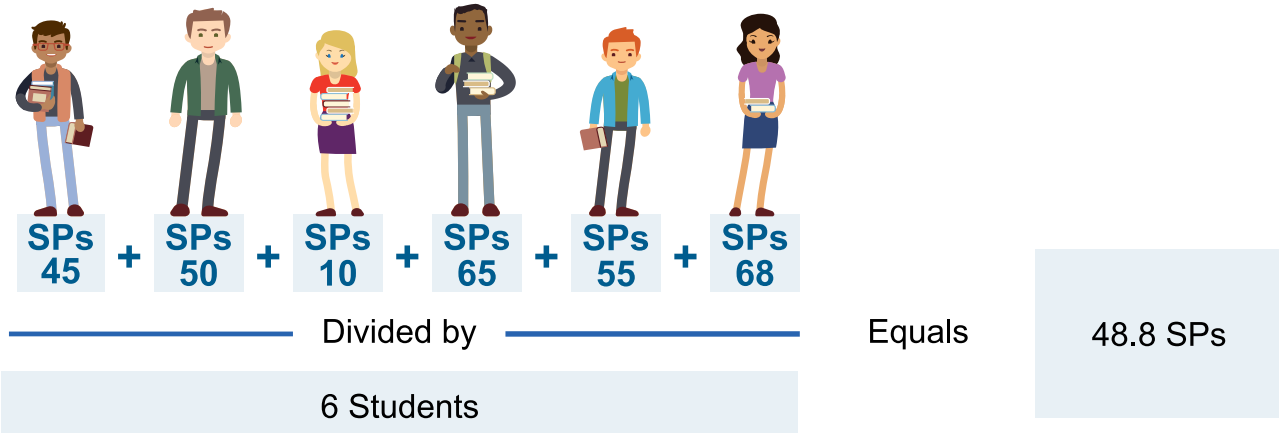
- **Step 1:** Calculate the SPs for each student.

Examples:

A grade five student receives a CAST score of 195. The student has 45 SPs because their score is 45 above the lowest obtainable scale score, which is 150.



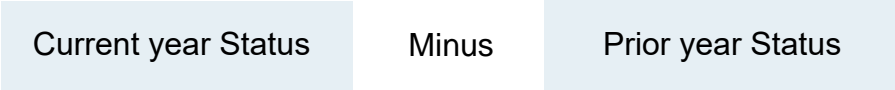
- **Step 2:** Calculate the average SPs for a school or district using all students' SPs values to determine the Status.*



*The average SPs calculation will include assigned LOSS scores only if the 95 percent participation rate is not met.

Comparing Current and Prior Year Data (Change)

Current and prior year data are compared to determine whether a school or district's Science Indicator changed.



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 [CDE Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page](#).

For more information, 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.

