



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
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Dear Accountability Coordinators and DASS Coordinators:

Approval of One-Year Graduation Rate for Alternative Schools

At the State Board of Education (SBE) January 2017 meeting, the SBE directed California Department of Education (CDE) staff to develop modified methods for select state indicators to more fairly evaluate the success and progress of alternative schools that serve high-risk students. We are pleased to inform you that at its May 2018 meeting, the SBE approved the one-year graduation rate for all schools participating in the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) program. As you know, all DASS schools will be held accountable for meeting the same state indicators that are reported in the California School Dashboard (Dashboard). However, based on the sustained work of the California Advisory Task Force on Alternative Schools and the feedback of diverse stakeholder groups over the past year, a one-year graduation rate was developed as a modified method for the Graduation Rate Indicator.

All DASS schools will receive a Dashboard report beginning in 2018. Local educational agencies (LEAs) will also be held accountable for DASS schools in their 2018 Dashboard report. Please note that the certification deadline for **submitting all End-of-Year (EOY) data** in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System is July 31, 2018. The amendment window is from August 1 through August 24, 2018. This is important as many of the EOY data are used for the state indicators reported on the Dashboard.

While details are included in the attachment to this letter, it is important to note that the one-year graduation rate methodology is based on **grade twelve students**.

The introduction of the one-year graduation rate is a very positive development for DASS schools. However we recognize that it will take some time for schools and LEAs to adjust to all of the new criteria and reporting rules. We are committed to do everything we can to ease the transition!

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact John Cooper in the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division at (916) 327-3550, or by email at JCooper@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Kazanis, Director
Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division

CK:ss

Attachment

Attachment

Who will receive a one-year graduation rate for the Graduation Rate Indicator on the California School Dashboard?

All schools approved to participate in the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) program will be held accountable for meeting the one-year graduation rate for the Graduation Rate Indicator. All non-DASS schools are held to the four-year graduation rate requirement.

Why are DASS schools only accountable for a one-year graduation rate?

The State Board of Education's (SBE's) approval of the one-year graduation rate as a modified method for DASS schools reflects the mounting recognition across the state that students who attend alternative schools are highly mobile; some may be returning to school after years of being out of the system. In addition, DASS students are often credit deficient and not on track to graduate within four years after entering grade nine. Therefore, producing a four-year cohort graduation rate for DASS schools does not fairly evaluate the schools' impact on their students.

Will DASS schools also receive a four-year graduation rate?

Yes. The four-year graduation rate for all schools, including DASS schools, will be reported on DataQuest. However, the one-year rate will be used to produce Status, Change, and the performance level (colors) reported *on the Dashboard* for DASS schools.

What criteria apply for graduates of DASS schools?

To be counted as a graduate under the one-year graduation rate, three criteria apply:

1. Grade Requirement—Students must:

- Be in grade eleven or twelve with a primary enrollment (enrollment status code 10 in California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System [CALPADS]), or
- Have an adult status in CALPADS, **or**
- Have an ungraded secondary status in CALPADS

2. Certificate Requirement—Students must receive:

- A standard diploma (or pass the California High School Proficiency Examination [CHSPE]), **or**

- A high school equivalency certificate (e.g., General Education Development [GED]), **or**
- A special education certificate of completion, **or**
- An adult education high school diploma

3. Enrollment Days Requirement—Students must:

- Be a grade twelve student enrolled for at least 90 consecutive **calendar** days (which includes weekends and holidays) and have an enrollment status code 10 in CALPADS, with an enrollment gap equal to or less than 30 days, **or**
- Be a graduate in July, August, or September (no enrollment requirement), **or**
- Be an adult **or** ungraded secondary student **or** Foster Youth **or** grade 11 graduate **or** have an enrollment status code 40 (receiving specialized services), **and** be enrolled at least 30 consecutive calendar days.

How are grade twelve students included in the one-year graduation rate and what are the implications for grade assignments?

Please note that because the one-year graduation rate methodology is based on grade twelve students, students placed in grade twelve in CALPADS will be included in the calculation. When assigning students to their grades, it is important that schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) consider whether students have the necessary credits and are on track to graduate in one year.

Are the one-year graduation rates for DASS *charter* schools included in their authorizer's Dashboard?

Under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), charter schools are treated as LEAs. Therefore, DASS **charter** school one-year graduation rates **will not** be rolled up to their authorizer's graduation rates.

Are the one-year graduation rates for DASS *non-charter* schools included in their LEA's Dashboard?

Yes. All non-charter DASS schools **will have** their one-year graduation rates aggregated up to their LEA's graduation rates. **Please note that no decisions have been made on the aggregation.** The CDE continues to obtain stakeholder input on the aggregation, including technical validity from the Technical Design Group.

Will separate Status and Change cut scores be set for the one-year graduation rate?

In September 2018, the SBE will determine whether separate cut scores (i.e., distinct from those already set for the four-year graduation rate) should be set for the one-year graduation rate. This determination will be based on the following:

- Recommended cut scores for Status and Change set by the California Advisory Task Force on Alternative Schools (Task Force)
- Feedback from the Technical Design Group (TDG) and various stakeholder groups regarding the Task Force recommendations

What years of graduation data will be used for Status and Change?

Status will be based on the Class of 2018 (i.e., students who were enrolled in grade twelve during the 2017–18 school year). Change will be the difference in one-year graduation rates between the Class of 2018 and Class of 2017.

Have modified methods been developed for other state indicators for DASS schools?

- **College/Career Indicator (CCI):** The CDE, in collaboration with the Task Force and the CCI Work Group, has been working on new career measures for both DASS and non-DASS schools. These new measures, scheduled for collection in CALPADS beginning with the 2018–19 school year, may *potentially* be included in the 2019 Dashboard. More information regarding the collection of these measures will be provided to Accountability and CALPADS LEA Coordinators in the coming year.
- **Other State Indicators:** The California Department of Education (CDE) will be working with the Task Force and other stakeholder groups on whether modified methods should be developed for the remaining state indicators (i.e., Suspension Rate, English Learner Progress, etc.) in 2019.

The letter references end-of-year data (EOY) submission. Why is this important?

Since the data collected in the three EOY submissions within the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) are used for state indicators reported in the Dashboard, we encourage LEAs to keep in mind all of the following dates that apply for all three EOYs:

- **Submission Window Opens:** May 14, 2018
- **Certification Deadline:** July 31, 2018
- **Amendment Window:** August 1-24, 2018

The data collected under each of the three EOYs used for state indicators are as follows:

- **EOY 1:** Under EOY 1, the primary data that are being collected are:
 - Course completion for grades 9-12
 - Career Technical Education participant, concentrator, and completer data

These data are used for the **College/Career Indicator**.

- **EOY 2:** Under EOY 2, the primary data that are being collected are:
 - Program eligibility/participation
 - Homeless students

These data are used for **all state indicators** reported in the Dashboard. The data are used to identify homeless, English learners, students with disabilities, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and foster youth. Please note that a student is flagged as a member of any of the indicated programs above if the student is indicated as a program member at any point in the academic year.

- **EOY 3:** Under EOY 3, the primary data that are being collected are:
 - Student discipline
 - Student absence summary
 - Exit codes

These data will be used for the **Suspension Rate Indicator**, **Chronic Absenteeism Indicator**, and **Graduation Rate Indicator**.

Please note that exit code will be extracted from the Operational Data Store on September 15, 2018, to calculate the four-year graduation rates.

For further information regarding the EOY submission window, please reference the CDE CALPADS Update FLASH #136 web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/calpadsupdf136.asp>.

Additional Information

To access more details and business rules regarding the one-year graduation rate, please view the “One-Year Graduation Rate for DASS Schools Only” PowerPoint, which is posted at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dass1yrgradrate.pdf>.