

Chronic Absenteeism Indicator

The Chronic Absenteeism indicator is based on the number of students who were absent for 10 percent or more of the total instructional school days. For example, most schools have 180 instructional days; if a student is absent 18 or more of those days, the student would be considered chronically absent. The Dashboard reports chronic absenteeism *only* for grades K–8 (i.e., it is not an indicator reported for high schools). However, the viewer can access chronic absenteeism rates for high schools on DataQuest since it reports these rates for all grade levels (K–12).

Reversed Goal

For most state indicators, the desired outcome is a high number or percent in the current year and an increase from the prior year. However, for the Chronic Absenteeism indicator, the desired outcome is a low rate in the current year and a decline from the prior year.

Calculating Current Year Data



Number of Students Chronically Absent in the Current Year

DIVIDED BY



Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment

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 lower rate of Chronic Absenteeism in 2019 than it did in 2018) or did worse.

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 California Department of Education (CDE) website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/howcolorsdetermine.pdf>.