

# Chronic Absenteeism Indicator

On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools that serve kindergarten through grade eight students receive a Chronic Absenteeism Indicator based on the number of students who were absent 10 percent or more of the school year.

For most state indicators, the desired outcome is to have a high percentage of performance in the current year. However, chronic absenteeism has a reverse goal of having the lowest percentage of students chronically absent in the current year.

Note: This indicator is not reported for high schools. However, chronic absenteeism rates for all grade levels (kindergarten through grade twelve) and absenteeism by reason can be accessed through the California Department of Education (CDE) Absenteeism Data web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/crabtop.asp>.

## Calculating Current Year Data



Number of Students  
Chronically Absent in  
the Current Year

Divided by



Number of Students  
Meeting the Absenteeism  
Enrollment Requirement\*

Equals

Chronic  
Absenteeism  
Rate\*\*

\* Students must be enrolled for at least 31 instructional days to be counted in the denominator.

\*\* Chronic absenteeism rate is used to determine the Status level for this indicator.

## 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 2023 than it did in 2022) or did worse (i.e., had a higher rate in 2023).

Current Year Status  
(2022–23 chronic absenteeism rate)

Minus

Prior Year Status  
(2021–22 chronic absenteeism rate)

Taken together—current year data and its comparison with prior year data—a performance level, or color, is given. Access the flyer about How Colors are Determined on the CDE Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardtoolkit.asp> and visit the CDE Absenteeism Data web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/crabtop.asp> for further information.

For more information, please visit the CDE California School Dashboard and System of Support web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/index.asp>.

Contact the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division by email at [dashboard@cde.ca.gov](mailto:dashboard@cde.ca.gov).

