

Suspension Rate Indicator

On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools that serve kindergarten through grade twelve students receive a Suspension Rate Indicator based on the number of students who have an aggregate suspension of at least one full day. A student is counted as suspended in the suspension rate only once regardless of multiple suspensions or multiple days of suspension.

For most state indicators, the desired outcome is a high percentage of performance in the current year and an increase from the prior year. However, for the Suspension Rate Indicator, the desired outcome is a low rate in the current year and a decline from the prior year.

Calculating Current Year Data



Unduplicated Number of Students Suspended with a Suspension of at Least One Full Day (Aggregated Duration of All Suspensions)

Divided by



Cumulative Enrollment*

*Cumulative enrollment is the total number of students who were enrolled for at least one day at any time during the school year (e.g., 2022–23 school year).

Comparing Current and Prior Year Data

We compare current and prior year data to determine whether a school or district made improvement (i.e., had a lower rate of suspension in 2022–23 than it did in 2021–22) or did worse (i.e., had a higher rate in 2022–23 than in 2021–22).

Current Year Status
(2022–23 Suspension Rate)

Minus

Prior Year Status
(2021–22 Suspension 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 Dashboard Colors are Determined on the California Department of Education (CDE) Dashboard Communications Toolkit web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardtoolkit.asp> for further information.

Multiple data simulations revealed that suspension data vary widely by LEA type (elementary, high, and unified) and school type (elementary, middle, and high). For example, suspension rates are higher at the middle school level than at the elementary school level. Therefore, unlike other state indicators, which use only LEA-level distributions to set the cut scores for Status and Change, the Suspension Rate Indicator uses both LEA-level and school-level distributions.

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.

