

# Academic Indicator Participation Rate Calculation for the Dashboard



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all states to test at least 95 percent of all students and student groups in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. It also requires states to factor the participation rate into their accountability systems, which, for California, is the Academic Indicator. The Academic Indicator is based on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the California Alternate Assessments for ELA and mathematics. It currently **does not** include the science assessments.

For any local educational agency (LEA), school, or student group with less than 95 percent of students tested, the ESSA requires a penalty to be applied to the Academic Indicator. To meet this federal requirement, California assigns the Lowest Obtainable Scale Score (LOSS) to each student needed to bring the participation rate of the school, district, 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 Distance from Standard (DFS). Note that the assignment of a LOSS for the students who did not test occurs only when the California Department of Education (CDE) calculates the California School Dashboard (Dashboard) Academic Indicator. Students who did not test **will not** receive a LOSS on their individual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) student score reports or in the CAASPP Student Score Data File.

## 2024 Dashboard Participation Rate Calculation

The 2024 methodology accounts for the number of students needed to bring the participation rate of the LEA, school, or student group to 95 percent. Each of these students will be assigned a DFS score based on the assignment of the LOSS.

- For ELA, a DFS of -333 will be applied to each student who is assigned the LOSS.
- For mathematics, a DFS of -348 will be applied to each student who is assigned the LOSS.

### Example LEA Using the 2024 Participation Rate Penalty Calculation for ELA

| LEA Information   | New Participation Methodology                                |
|---|--|
| Number of students enrolled during the testing window in grades three through eight and grade eleven and eligible to participate in the ELA summative and alternate assessments | 355 students   |
| Number of testing students needed to meet the 95 percent participation rate target  | 338 students<br>( $355 \times 0.95 = 337.25$ rounded to 338) |
| Number of students tested   | 268 students   |

| LEA Information   | New Participation Methodology   |
|---|---|
| Difference between Row 2 (number of students needed to meet 95 percent) and Row 3 (number of students tested) | 70 students<br>(338 students needed minus 268 students tested)  |
| Participation rate penalty calculation  | Each of the 70 students will be assigned a LOSS and receive a DFS of -333 (DFS for ELA).<br><b><math>70 \times (-333) = -23,310</math> penalty</b>        |
| Adjusted DFS calculation<br>Note: The sum of all tested students' DFS, before the penalty, is 4,355.          | 4,355 (DFS without penalty) -23,310<br>(participation rate penalty) = -18,955   |
| Final DFS calculation   | -18,955 ÷ 338 (number of students needed to meet 95 percent target) = -56.1<br>The LEA's DFS is <b>-56.1 points</b> from Achievement Level 3 Standard Met |

For more information, please 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](mailto:dashboard@cde.ca.gov).

