California School DASHBOARD

Academic Indicator

The Academic Indicator is based on student performance on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics, which are administered each spring to students in grades three through eight and grade eleven. Schools and districts receive separate performance levels (colors) for ELA and mathematics.

Levels of Achievement

Students receive a scale score for ELA and mathematics. This scale score corresponds to one of four achievement levels, with Level 3 representing "Standard Met." For example, a Grade 3 student who receives a score of 2446 on the ELA assessment is assigned to the "Standard Met" achievement level because the Grade 3 scale score range for that level is 2432 to 2489.

The scale score ranges vary by grade level and subject area and can be found on the California Department of Education web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/scalescoreranges.pdf.

Calculating Current Year Data

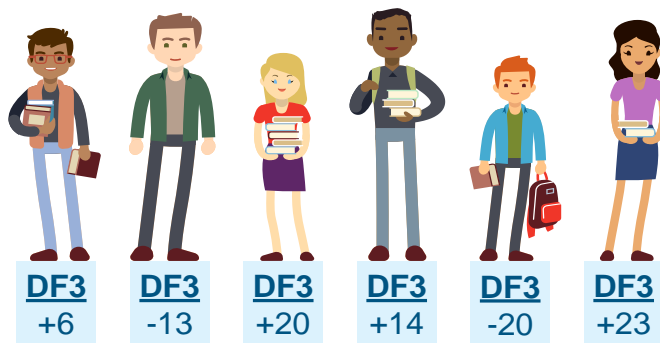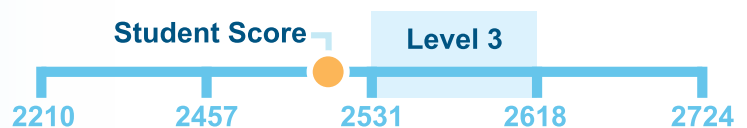Calculating the current year data is a two-step process.

1. **Determining the Overall Distance from Standard**

   The distance from the lowest possible score for "Standard Met" is called the Distance from Standard (DFS). A DFS is calculated for each student.

   Examples:

   A Grade 3 student receives an ELA score of 2420. The student has a DFS of -12 because the lowest possible score for the Standard Met level is 2432.

   Student Score | **Level 3**

   2210   2457   2531   2618   2724

   Another Grade 3 student receives an ELA score of 2480. The student has a DFS of +48.

   | DF3 +6 | DF3 -13 | DF3 +20 | DF3 +14 | DF3 -20 | DF3 +23 |

   The overall DFS for a school or district is the average of all students' DFS values.

   $$\frac{6 - 13 + 20 + 14 - 20 + 23}{6} = 5 \text{ points}$$

2. Determining the Participation Rate

All schools and districts must test at least 95 percent of their students. If they fail to meet this target, their DFS score will be reduced by one-quarter point for each percentage point that they fall short of the 95 percent target.
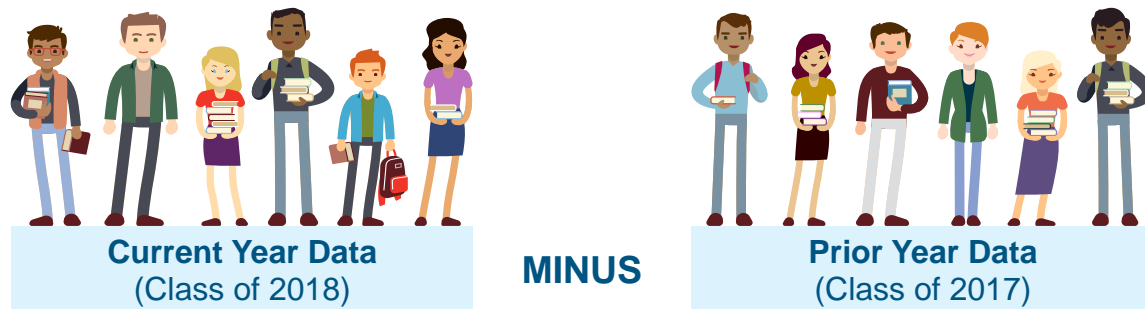
> Example:
>
> A school with a DFS of +5 tested 91 percent of its students (four points short of the 95 percent target). The DFS is reduced by 1 point. (4 × ¼ point = 1 point)

The final DFS value 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 higher DFS in 2018 than it did in 2017) or experienced a decline.

Current Year Data
(Class of 2018)

MINUS

Prior Year Data
(Class of 2017)

The result 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/howcolorsdetermine18.pdf.

Note: Schools and districts with only grade 11 students will use a different 5×5 grid than those serving students in additionally tested grades.