

# Four-Year Graduation Rate Indicator

The four-year graduation rate is based on the percent of students who attend a comprehensive high school and graduate with a regular high school diploma within four years of entering grade nine. This indicator applies to districts and schools with students in grades 9–12.

*Note: Students who earn a Special Education Certificate of Completion, a California High School Equivalency Certificate, or an adult education diploma are not counted for the four-year graduation rate as receiving a regular high school diploma. For information about the graduation rate for alternative schools, see the DASS Graduation Rate flyer on the California Department of Education (CDE) website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/index.asp>, under the Communications Toolkit tab.*

## Calculating Current Year Data



Number of Students Who Earn a Regular High School Diploma

**DIVIDED BY**



Total Number of Students in the Four-Year Graduation Cohort

The result 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 rate of graduation 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 CDE website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/5X5dashboardflyer.pdf>.

The 2018 Dashboard will also report, for information purposes only, on the five-year graduation cohort: Students who did not graduate with their four-year cohort (e.g., their Class in 2016) but who graduated one year later, in 2017.