

# Suspension Rate Indicator

The Suspension Rate indicator is based on the number of students who were suspended at least once in either the current or prior year.

*Note: If a student was suspended more than once in the school year, they are counted only once.*

## Reversed Goal

For most state indicators, the desired outcome is a high number or percent 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



Number of Students Suspended at  
Least Once in the Current Year

**DIVIDED BY**



Cumulative Enrollment

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 lower rate of suspension in 2018 than it did in 2017) or did worse (i.e., had a higher rate in 2018).

**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/5X5dashboardflyer.pdf>.

Suspension data vary widely among district and school types. Rates are generally higher at the middle school level and lower at the elementary school level. Therefore, the Suspension Rate Indicator has a 5×5 colored grid for each local educational agency (LEA) and school type.