

TALKING POINTS for CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DASHBOARD LAUNCH

BIG PICTURE

- With the official launch of the California School Dashboard and the emergence of the Statewide System of Support, California is taking another leap forward towards achieving our vision of a high quality education for every student in every school and in every part of the state.
- The Dashboard and System of Support are the latest in a series of major, positive changes that are transforming our public education system by raising the bar for learning for all students, empowering local communities, targeting funding based on student needs, and improving transparency in how we measure progress in support of continuous improvement.
- All of the changes focus on addressing a history of inequities among our students and schools.
- These changes provide an unprecedented opportunity for parents and community members to be active partners with educators in shaping the ways their schools are educating all students.

DASHBOARD

- After months of field testing and input from Californians, the Dashboard officially launches on December 7.
- The Dashboard represents a major advance in how we measure the performance of schools and students beyond a single test score.
- The Dashboard shines a light on what's working well and where improvement is needed. The Dashboard:
 - Is a tool that helps parents, educators, local communities and leaders ask more questions and have more in-depth discussions about the performance and progress of their students and schools.
 - Provides important information about a variety of factors that research shows contribute to the success of students and schools. The color-coded reports allow people to see data about graduation rates, suspension data, test scores, English learner progress, and college and career readiness.
 - Provides a breakdown of data by the different populations of students, including by racial groups, foster and homeless youth, and children from low-income families. This information is especially intended to focus attention on disparities among different groups.
- The Dashboard is a key part of California's shift to a Continuous Improvement approach that encourages district and school leaders and their local communities to use data across a number of measures to identify specific challenges, then plan and work together to address them using innovative, evidence-based strategies.
- The Dashboard is also a tool for identifying districts eligible for assistance under the new Statewide System of Support.

STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

- The California Statewide System of Support will provide identified schools and districts with targeted assistance to improve outcomes for all students, especially those with the highest needs.
- The system requires districts eligible for differentiated assistance to initially work with county offices of education to identify strengths and weaknesses and root causes of lagging student learning.
- It also offers flexibility for districts to seek assistance from other education experts, including the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.
- Strategies for improving will be jointly developed with stakeholders and resources will be identified through the LCAP process.
- Counties will monitor progress; districts that do not improve in three out of four years will face state intervention.
- The System of Support is also a key element of California's Continuous Improvement approach. It promotes collaboration among stakeholders at all levels, and will provide assistance for building capacity and sharing best practices.
- Continuous improvement means taking collective responsibility. Everyone in the education system must be committed to learning how to do things better to improve the performance of all schools and all of the children under their care.

CONTINUED INVESTMENT

- To succeed in our ambitious efforts to transform public education and help all schools make continuous improvement, California must continue to invest more resources and:
 - Keep equity at the forefront
 - Build the capacity of local educators and communities to engage and focus on continuous improvement in their work to meet the needs of all students – especially those with the highest needs.
 - Expand and support opportunities for parents, students, educators and communities to activate their voices and influence what happens at their local schools.
 - Foster collaborative conversations and approaches at the state, district, and local levels.
- Studies show that better educated individuals tend to earn more, live longer and healthier lives, and be happier. Supporting our public education system is one of the best investments we can make for the well-being of future generations.