

# Understanding the California School Dashboard



A tool for tracking your school's progress



Steven D. Herrington, Ph.D.  
Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools  
5340 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
scoe.org/dashboard | 707-524-2600

## Fostering School Growth

A full picture of your child’s school can’t be gained from one test score. That is why California has shifted away from using test scores as the only way to measure school success. The **California School Dashboard** features a range of measures displayed in an interactive online format. It helps districts and schools identify strengths and weaknesses and pinpoint student groups that may be struggling. It also answers important questions for families, such as:

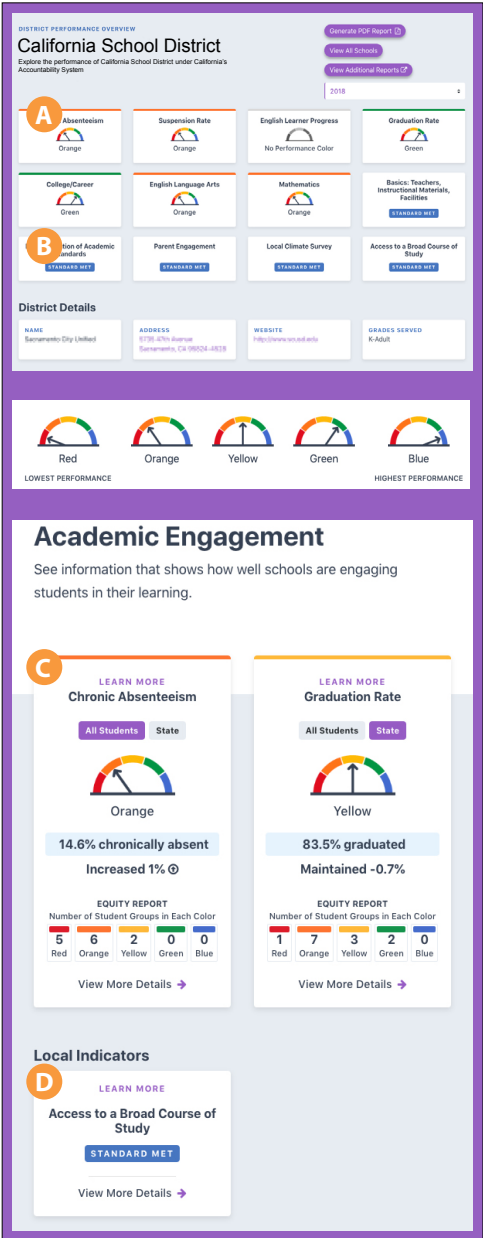
- Are students and families engaged?
- Are all student groups set up to succeed, or are some falling behind?
- Are students graduating ready to succeed at college or in a career?
- Is my school improving over time?

## Five Key Features

- Many measures of school success:** Displays how schools are doing in key areas like graduation rates, parent engagement, and student mastery of state standards
- Centered on equity:** Identifies under-performing student groups so they can be better served
- Part of state accountability system:** California is giving more money and authority to schools/districts while holding them accountable through online testing and rigorous state standards. The dashboard helps them stay on track and identifies districts that need additional support.
- Supports local decision-making:** Helps districts measure goals made in their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs)
- Promotes continuous improvement:** Rather than finding fault, is meant to help schools build on strengths and identify areas where they need to grow

## The Dashboard: A Quick Guide

The Dashboard provides parents and educators with meaningful information on school and district progress so they can participate in decisions to improve student outcomes. Here are some of the key features you can use to learn about your school/district. [Access the reports and learn more at caschooldashboard.org](https://caschooldashboard.org).



### District Performance Overview

This section is the first thing you see when you look up your school/district. It functions like a dashboard in a car to provide an overview of how a school is performing across a range of measures.

**A** This section tracks information on six student outcomes collected **statewide**, including chronic absenteeism, academic performance, and graduation rates. The color-coded gauge for each of these measures is a reflection of both the school/district’s performance in the current year as well as its improvement or decline over prior years. Blue is the highest performance level, while red is the lowest.

**B** This section measures clean and safe buildings, school climate, parent engagement, and access to a broad course of study. They are reported/collected by the district based on **local** data and aren’t given for individual schools. They are reported as standard met/not met.

### Detailed Performance Reports

When you scroll down, you will find detailed reports on academic performance, academic engagement, conditions, and climate. These provide detailed data on how your school/district is doing in these important areas. This includes an “equity report” that shows how specific student groups are doing.

**C** You can click for more details on each “report card.” Clicking on the “state” button, for instance, will reveal how the school compares to others in California.

**D** To learn how districts are meeting their local indicator standards, click “view more details.”