Understanding the California School Dashboard

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

1. Many measures of school success: Displays how schools are doing in key areas like graduation rates, parent engagement, and student mastery of state standards
2. Centered on equity: Identifies under-performing student groups so they can be better served
3. 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.
4. Supports local decision-making: Helps districts measure goals made in their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs)
5. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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