



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■■ San Diego ■■ California 92128-3406

Phone (858) 521-2700 ■■ FAX (858) 485-1075

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Contact: Christine Paik, Director of Communications (858) 521-2707

Doug Johnson, Executive Director of Learning Support Services (858) 521-2732

California's New School Dashboard Debuts First Official Results

Today the California Department of Education released the first official statewide results on its new accountability system: the California School Dashboard. The Dashboard shows how well students within a district or school are performing on a variety of indicators, including test scores, graduation rates, suspension rates, chronic absenteeism, English learner progress, and college/career readiness. This accountability system was first unveiled to the public last spring as a field test and provides a wealth of information to assist parents, educators, and the general public in evaluating schools and districts. To view the California School Dashboard [click here](#). Review the Fast Start Guide or Video Tutorial before searching for our school district or specific school.

Background

In the past, the state's accountability systems for districts and schools relied solely on test scores. But one test taken on one particular day did not provide a complete picture of all the ways schools are helping students succeed. The Dashboard provides information on different aspects of student performance, which will give a more complete picture of a school's progress. The Dashboard also reports on growth to show a school's trajectory over time.

The California School Dashboard provides transparency to the public on key metrics at both the district and school levels. It further breaks down how student groups, such as ethnic and racial groups, low-income students, English learners, foster youth, and students with special needs, are performing on the various measures. The indicators are color-coded - blue is the highest



rating, followed by green, then yellow, orange, and red is the lowest. In turn, these metrics contribute information that assist PUSD staff in building on successful practices and identifying areas of needed improvement.

How did we do? (The following are results for All Students for Fall 2017)



Blue

Our English learner progress, graduation rate, and mathematics achievement indicators were deemed to be at the “very high” blue status level. This status has been maintained at the district level for the past two years.

In the college/career indicator, Poway Unified was determined to be at the “very high” level with 70.5% of our students determined to be “Prepared”. (It is important to note that the college/career indicator will not have a color associated with it in the Dashboard until May of 2018.)



Green

Poway Unified was reported to have a “low” suspension rate of 1.3% of our student body. The suspension status is at the green level and has been maintained for the past two years. PUSD also has a “low” chronic absenteeism rate, with 5.3% of our students being absent for 10% of the year. (It is important to note that the chronic absenteeism indicator will not have a color associated with it in the Dashboard until May of 2018.)

Student performance in English Language Arts was determined to be “very high”, however, because achievement in this area on the Smarter Balanced Assessment declined, PUSD moved to the green performance level from the previous year.

In addition, PUSD met all of the local indicators measuring basic needs (teachers, instructional materials, facilities), implementation of academic standards, parent engagement, and local climate survey.

Areas for Improvement

While we are proud of our students’ accomplishments, the Dashboard data denotes areas of improvement in meeting the needs of our individual student groups. In comparison to data on the 2016 Dashboard, some of our student groups moved to the orange and red levels in suspension rate, English language arts and mathematics. By identifying the students who need the most help – and identifying exactly what areas they are struggling in – districts and schools can determine the best strategies for supporting and accelerating learning. PUSD is refining and aligning our curricular, instructional, and assessment practices in our ongoing efforts to support all students.

Poway Unified is committed to strengthening our system-wide collaboration with parents, teachers, and school staff to facilitate the success of our students. The California School Dashboard assists us in charting this mission for all students.

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