March 15, 2017

New Statewide Accountability Goes Beyond Test Scores

The California Department of Education has designed a new accountability system that gives a more robust view into the performance of schools. Known as the California School Dashboard, the web-based accountability system is designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 districts and schools. The Dashboard gives a more complete picture of how schools are serving our diverse student population.

The Dashboard replaces the Academic Performance Index (API), which relied on test scores that offered a limited view of school performance. Test scores alone do not provide a complete picture of the variety of ways that our schools are helping students succeed.

The new State Dashboard features a snapshot of multiple indicators of school performance, including test scores, graduation rates, English learner progress and suspension rates. It is important to remember that the data shown is preliminary; metrics and data will be added over time.

The following is a list of the State and Local indicators for this new system. Local indicators are not currently included in the Dashboard. Local indicators are expected to be included by the end of 2017.

State Indicators:
- Academic (Based on Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test scores for English language arts and math – grades 3-8)
- English learner progress
- Graduation rate (grades 9-12)
- Suspension rate
- Chronic absenteeism*
- College/career readiness*

Local Indicators:
- Basic conditions of schools*
- Academic standards implementation*
- Parent engagement*
- School climate*

*Data for these indicators not currently available

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Performance on state indicators is represented in the Dashboard by color-coded pie pieces. The five performance levels are: blue (highest), green, yellow, orange, and red (lowest). The levels reflect both current performance and changes in performance over time.

The Dashboard provides four types of reports with detailed performance information:

- Equity report – performance level of all students
- Status and change report – current performance and change over time
- Detailed reports – year-by-year data for the state and local indicators
- Student group report – performance of various demographic groups

Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) – At a Glance

The new accountability model takes into account current performance status and growth over time. Preliminary data available in the new Dashboard, as of March 15, 2017 shows the district’s current overall performance is high and we are making progress in continuing our growth in many key areas.

It is helpful to note that the data used in the Dashboard is not reflective of the most recent school year, sometimes significantly. The below chart gives an indication how far behind the data is for suspension rate, graduation rate and English learner progress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Data Used for Status</th>
<th>Data Used for Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspension Rate</td>
<td>2014–15 suspension rate</td>
<td>2014–15 suspension rate minus 2013–14 suspension rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learner Progress</td>
<td>2015 and 2014 CELDT + reclassification data</td>
<td>2015 and 2014 CELDT + 2014 reclassification data minus 2014 and 2013 CELDT + 2013 reclassification data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Dashboard shows that in NMUSD:

- The academic indicator for the district English Language Arts and math performance status is “high” and the change level is “increased.” The academic indicator takes into account state testing results from grades 3-8.
- English learner progress status in NMUSD is “medium” with a change level of “increased;”
- Graduation rate performance status is “high” and the change level is “maintained;”
- Suspension rate performance status is “low” and the change level is “maintained.” It should be noted that suspension rate is different from the other indicators in that the goal is to have a low number of suspensions. In this instance, it is good to have a “low” or “very low” suspension rate.

The State has yet to provide indicators for chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness. Once the State fully implements the Dashboard, it will provide a more complete look into the performance of our schools.

“We are pleased that the State is taking a more complete approach to school performance and looking more closely at the variety of ways that our schools are helping students succeed,” said Superintendent Dr. Fred Navarro.
NMUSD will use the information contained within the Dashboard to update the district’s Local Control Accountability Plan, which sets goals and funding priorities for each school year. As new metrics and reports are added, our schools will use the information to adapt priorities and processes to improve educational outcomes for all students.

Please click here to view the Dashboard.

The Dashboard does not provide detailed test results for the Smarter Balanced Assessment test. That information will continue to be available at http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov. Individual student score reports will continue to be mailed home annually in the fall.

Please contact your school principal to learn more about your home school performance.

Resources:

- California Department of Education - http://www.cde.ca.gov/dashboard
- Click here for a Video Overview of the Dashboard

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