



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Dear Accountability Coordinators and DASS Coordinators:

**Using the One-Year Graduation Cohort for the College/Career Indicator  
for Alternative Schools**

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that beginning with the 2018 California School Dashboard (Dashboard), the one-year graduation cohort will be used for the College/Career Indicator (CCI) for all schools participating in the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) program. As noted in our June 21, 2018 letter (posted on the California Department of Education [CDE] DASS web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/documents/1yrmodmethodsltr.pdf>), all DASS schools will receive a Dashboard report beginning in 2018. We also noted that the State Board of Education (SBE) approved, at its May 2018 meeting, the use of the one-year graduation rate for DASS schools for the Graduation Rate Indicator.

The calculation of the CCI for traditional schools (or non-DASS) are based on students in the four-year graduation cohort. Because the SBE approved the use of the one-year graduation cohort for DASS schools, the calculation of the CCI for DASS schools will be based on students in the one-year graduation cohort.

As a reminder, the certification **deadline for submitting all End-of-Year (EOY) data** in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System is now August 24, 2018. Local educational agencies have until August 24, 2018 to update, if necessary, and (re)certify their EOY submissions. This is important as many of the EOY data are used for the state indicators reported on the Dashboard.

The use of the one-year graduation rate is a very positive development for DASS schools. But we recognize that schools and LEAs will need time to adjust to the new criteria and reporting rules. We have been working closely with the California Advisory Task Force on Alternative Schools and obtaining feedback from various stakeholder groups to ensure that appropriate rules are applied to DASS schools. They are also assisting us with identifying potential new measures that may be included in the CCI for future Dashboard.

Two attachments are included in this letter detailing the use of the one-year graduation cohort for the CCI.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact John Cooper, Staff Services Analyst, in the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division at (916) 327-3550, or by email at [JCooper@cde.ca.gov](mailto:JCooper@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Jenny Singh, Education Administrator  
Academic Accountability Unit

JS:ss

Attachment

## Attachment 1: Questions and Answers

### **Which schools will have the one-year graduation cohort used to calculate the College/Career Indicator (CCI) on the California School Dashboard (Dashboard)?**

All high schools approved to participate in the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) program will have the one-year graduation cohort used as the base of students to include in the calculation of the CCI. All non-DASS high schools will continue to have the four-year graduation cohort used as the base of students included in the calculation of the CCI.

### **Why are DASS schools only accountable for a one-year graduation cohort?**

The State Board of Education's (SBE's) approval of the one-year graduation rate as a modified method for DASS schools reflects the mounting recognition across the state that students who attend alternative schools are highly mobile; some may be returning to school after years of being out of the system. In addition, DASS students are often credit deficient and not on track to graduate within four years after entering grade nine. Therefore, the one-year graduation cohort was developed with input from the California Advisory Task Force for Alternative Schools, which includes representatives from local educational agencies (LEAs), juvenile court schools, special education local plan area, and DASS charter schools.

### **Since DASS schools will have a one-year cohort graduation rate reported in the Dashboard does this mean that DataQuest will also report the one-year graduation cohort rate?**

No. DataQuest will continue to report the four-year graduation rate for all schools, including DASS schools.

### **What are the criteria for determining the one-year graduation cohort?**

To review the criteria used to determine the one-year graduation cohort, along with examples, please see the California Department of Education (CDE) One-Year Graduation Rate for Alternative Schools web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dass1yrgradrate.pdf>.

### **Will the CCI for DASS *charter* schools be included in their authorizer's Dashboard?**

Under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), charter schools are treated as LEAs. Therefore, DASS **charter** school CCI results **will not** be rolled up to their authorizer's CCI results.

**Will the one-year graduation rates for DASS *non-charter* schools be included in their LEA's Dashboard?**

Yes. All non-charter DASS schools **will have** their CCI aggregated up to their LEA's CCI results. **Please note that no decisions have been made on the aggregation.** The CDE continues to obtain stakeholder input on the aggregation, including technical validity from the Technical Design Group.

**For the 2018 Dashboard, which graduating class will be used to determine the one-year cohort for the CCI for DASS schools?**

Status will be based on the Class of 2018 (i.e., students who were enrolled in grade twelve during the 2017–18 school year). Change will be the difference in CCI results between the Classes of 2018 and 2017.

**Have modified measures been developed for the CCI?**

The CDE, in collaboration with the Task Force and the CCI Work Group, has been working on new career measures for both DASS and non-DASS schools. These new measures, scheduled for collection in CALPADS beginning with the 2018–19 school year, may *potentially* be included in the 2019 Dashboard. More information regarding the collection of these measures will be provided to Accountability and CALPADS LEA Coordinators in the coming year.

**Have modified methods been developed for other state indicators?**

The CDE will be working with the Task Force and other stakeholder groups on whether modified methods should be developed for the remaining state indicators (i.e., Suspension Rate, English Learner Progress, etc.) in 2019.

**The letter references end-of-year data (EOY) submission. Why is this important?**

As noted in our earlier letter dated June 21, 2018, on the one-year graduation rate, the data collected in the three EOY submissions within the CALPADS are used for state indicators reported in the Dashboard. Therefore, we encourage LEAs to keep in mind all of the following dates that apply **for all three EOYs**. For more details, please view:

- June 21, 2018 letter posted on the CDE DASS web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/documents/1yrmodmethodsltr.pdf>, and
- August 7, 2018 letter reminding county and district superintendents and charter school administrators of the upcoming data submission deadlines for the 2018 Dashboard. (This letter was also forwarded to accountability coordinators.)

## Attachment 2: Calculating the CCI for Alternative Schools

### CCI for Traditional Schools

For traditional schools (or non-Dashboard Alternative School Status [DASS] schools), calculations for the College/Career Indicator (CCI) are based on the students in the four-year graduation cohort. The California Department of Education (CDE) uses the last four-years of data for each student in the four-year cohort to ascertain what they have completed or earned. These data are then used to place each student in one of three CCI levels (Prepared, Approaching Prepared, and Not Prepared).

Graduates are placed in Prepared or Approaching Prepared based on the highest criteria that they meet. Non-graduates are automatically placed in Not Prepared, along with any graduate who does not meet any criteria in the Prepared or Approaching Prepared levels. To access the CCI criteria, please view the CDE College/Career Indicator Flyer web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/ccidashboardflyer.pdf>.

The Class of 2018 will be used for Status. Change will be the difference in CCI results between the Classes of 2018 and 2017.

### CCI for DASS Schools

Beginning with the 2018 California School Dashboard (Dashboard), CCI calculations for DASS schools will be based on students in the one-year graduation cohort. Calculations will be based on the same years of data as those used to calculate the CCI for traditional schools:

- Class of 2018 (i.e., students who were enrolled in grade twelve during the 2017–18 school year) will be used for Status.
- Change will be the difference in CCI results between the Classes of 2018 and 2017.

Students in DASS schools will be expected to meet the **same CCI criteria** as those in non-DASS schools (see link to CCI criteria above). Likewise, the last four-years of data for each student in the one-year graduation cohort will be used. For example, for the Class of 2018, the 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 academic years will be used to determine which CCI criteria each student met. Graduates are placed in Prepared or Approaching Prepared based on the highest criteria that they meet. Non-graduates are automatically placed in Not Prepared, along with any graduate who does not meet any criteria in the Prepared or Approaching Prepared levels.

Because many DASS students transfer between DASS schools, as well as between DASS and traditional schools, the last school that the student was enrolled at will be held accountable. This last school of enrollment (as recorded in the California

Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System) will receive credit for all accomplishments made by the student during the last four years.

The following page contains student examples showing how the one-year graduation cohort is used for the CCI for DASS schools.

## Student Examples

| Student                                 | CCI Data for the Last Four Years  | CCI Outcome  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Jimmy is a grade twelve student.</p> | <p>For the last four years, Jimmy had transferred multiple times between non-DASS and DASS schools. During these four years he:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway at Constellation High School, a <i>non-DASS</i> school</li> <li>• Passed the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) at Aries DASS School</li> <li>• Scored a Level 2 on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA) at Pegasus High School, a <i>non-DASS</i> school</li> <li>• Scored a Level 2 on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in mathematics at Polaris DASS School</li> </ul> <p>Jimmy's last school of enrollment in CALPADS is Aries DASS School. Because he met the 90-day enrollment requirement at that school, and since he passed the CHSPE, he is included in the school's one-year graduation rate (in both the numerator and denominator).</p>   | <p>Because Jimmy graduated, he is eligible to be placed in the Approaching Prepared or Prepared CCI levels. All accomplishments made by Jimmy during the last four years will be used to place him in one of these two levels.</p> <p>Since the highest CCI criteria that he met was completing a CTE pathway, Jimmy will be placed in the Approaching Prepared level at Aries DASS School. (Note that even though Jimmy completed the CTE pathway at Constellation High School, the last school of enrollment, Aries DASS School, will receive the credit.)</p> |
| <p>Nick is a grade twelve student.</p>  | <p>For the last four years, Nick has enrolled in a different DASS school each year. During these four years he:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed one semester Welding Course at the local community college while attending Andromeda DASS School. He received a B minus in the course and was awarded college credit.</li> <li>• Passed the General Educational Development (GED) while enrolled at Orion DASS School.</li> <li>• Scored a Level 2 on both the ELA and mathematics Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments while enrolled at Cassiopeia DASS School.</li> <li>• Completed one semester Refrigeration Course while attending Columba DASS School. He received a C plus in the course and was awarded college credit.</li> </ul> <p>Nick's last school of enrollment in CALPADS is Columba DASS School. Because he met the 90-day enrollment requirement at Columba, and since he passed the GED, he is included in the Columba's one-year graduation rate (in both the numerator and denominator).</p> | <p>Because Nick graduated, he is eligible to be placed in the Approaching Prepared or Prepared CCI levels. All accomplishments made by Nick during the last four years will be used to place him in one of these two levels.</p> <p>Since the highest CCI criteria that Nick met was completing two semesters of Dual Enrollment courses with a grade C minus or better, he will be placed in the Prepared level at Columba DASS School. (Note that Nick's accomplishments at all schools are taken into account and credited to Columba School.)</p>            |