



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools

5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658

707.399.4400 ★ www.solanocoe.net

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 15, 2017
Organization: Solano County Office of Education
Contact: Victor Romualdi
Telephone: 707-399-4432
E-Mail: VRomualdi@Solanocoe.net

New California School Dashboard Released for Public Review

Today, the California Department of Education (CDE) released the new accountability system now known as the California School Dashboard for public review at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>. The Dashboard includes performance indicators for suspension rate, English Learner progress, graduation rate, proficiency in English language arts and mathematics for every California district and school. CDE is currently working on state-wide indicators for chronic absenteeism and college/career readiness. Performance levels for each indicator on the Dashboard are represented by a color scale: blue, green, yellow, orange, to red; with blue being the highest level and red being the lowest on the coding system.

An initial analysis of districts in Solano County indicates that none are in the red for any of the state-wide indicators. It also reveals that the graduation rate is an area of success among our districts, with many of them in the green or blue categories. For suspensions, districts results range from orange to blue. County districts have been developing alternatives to suspension for some time, and these results suggest some decrease in suspensions is evident while more work in this area needs to be done.

Most districts fall in the orange category for English Learners' progress, indicating the need for reflection and continued planning for effective strategies. Students' progress in English language development is the core of this marker and continues to be a priority with English Learners making up 22.1 percent of the California student population.

Academic indicators are based on students' performance on the Smarter Balance state-wide assessment, administered to grades 3 through 8, and 11. Results for the English language arts and math areas range from orange to green with most the districts falling in the yellow area. This trend shows that districts, in general, are moving students toward academic proficiency and that efforts to support positive student outcomes through continuous improvement of instructional strategies and supports must continue and be a priority.

As part of a state-wide effort to promote equity in education, CDE provides an Equity Report for each of the indicators relative to the performance of specific groups of students. In most districts, the performance of students with disabilities on standardized assessments in English language arts and mathematics falls in the red range. This trend is found across the state and rather than identifying weaknesses specific to our districts, points to the need for further exploration of specialized instructional services, their relation to the general education curriculum, and appropriate assessment of students with disabilities.

The new accountability system also includes a Status and Change Report which compares the most recent year performance to the prior year performance on a scale including: increased significantly, increased, maintained, declined, and declined significantly. This combination of the most recent data and

progress over time is used to make an overall determination for each indicator, providing equal weight to both Status and Change. This approach is sensitive to improvement efforts and recognizes districts and schools that are able to progress from the initially lower performance.

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, County Superintendent of Schools, commented that, "There is cause for celebration, for the work Solano County school districts have done in many areas. It is very encouraging to see how these performance indicators showed improvement over time. The Solano County Office of Education is ready to support the districts in their efforts, as they work to thoroughly evaluate these results to identify and implement strategies in targeted areas."

To learn more about the Dashboard, please contact Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs and Educational Services at 707-399-4432 or VRomualdi@Solanocoe.net.

#