



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

TOM TORLAKSON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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April 16, 2018

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING GRADUATION RATE COLLECTION

Beginning this fall, the California Department of Education (CDE) will use the Class of 2018 cohort graduation rate in the 2018 California School Dashboard (Dashboard). To accommodate the reporting of these data in the current year and to align with federal requirements, new data collection and calculation processes will be implemented.

A new cohort report will launch this spring in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) with data submission and validation. The cohort report shows counts of graduates and non-graduates, and the resulting graduation rates when LEAs exit students in CALPADS.

New federal requirements will necessitate changes to the graduation rate calculation. These changes may result in a two to three percent decrease of California's graduation rate and a subsequent decrease in graduation rates for LEAs and schools. For example, under the new requirements students who transfer to an adult education program before the end of the fourth year of high school will now remain in the cohort. These students will be counted as dropouts unless they receive a "regular high school diploma" by the end of the fourth year of high school. The CDE is also required to begin a compliance monitoring process to review documentation for students moving in and out of the cohort.

Due to these changes, the CDE is delaying the public release of the 2017 graduation rates until June 2018. LEAs will receive an additional preview and correction opportunity for these data. Detailed information about these changes and associated timelines will be provided to LEA CALPADS Coordinators and Accountability Coordinators.

If you have questions regarding the reporting of graduation rates, please contact the Data Reporting Office by phone at 916-327-0219 or by e-mail at DRO@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent
Performance, Planning, and Technology Branch

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