



A Message From Superintendent Dr. Nancy Lynch

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, our third through eighth grade students participate in standardized testing each spring, using the tool of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Today marks the public release of the new California School Dashboard, which provides information to the community on student achievement on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, as well as progress in other key areas. The information demonstrates how students performed last spring, and will be updated next fall with the new data for the current school year.

Please keep reading for additional information about the Dashboard.

*Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

California is field testing a new website designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 districts and schools. The [California School Dashboard](#), site features easy-to-read reports on multiple measures of school success, including test scores, graduation rates, English learner progress and suspension rates. The Dashboard is part of California's new school accountability system based on 2013's Local Control Funding Formula. It is the next step in a series of major shifts in public education that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing and placed the focus on equity for all students.

To learn more about California's accountability and continuous improvement efforts, visit the [CDE Dashboard Web page](#).

Why a new system and new tool?

The Dashboard is a key part of California's commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. California's future success depends on tapping into the potential of all students, so they graduate ready for college, careers and life. For schools to reach this goal, teachers, parents and the community need clear and useful measures of progress. As an accountability tool, the Dashboard will help the state identify schools (including charter schools) and districts needing targeted assistance.

What's different?

In the past, accountability systems for districts and schools relied solely on test scores. But one test taken on one particular day doesn't provide a complete picture of all the ways schools are helping students succeed.

Think of it this way: You can't drive a car by only watching the speedometer. You also keep your eye on the road, check the mirrors, monitor the gas tank and pay attention if the engine light comes on. Similarly, 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.

What's next?

The Dashboard is deliberately designed to be a work in progress: Metrics and reports will be added over time. During the field testing phase, the state will be gathering feedback to make additional modifications.

The exciting changes taking place in education will take time to fully implement. While schools are making progress in many key areas there is always more work to do. The Dashboard is part of an ongoing conversation with our community on both how we're doing and how we can do better.

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### **From the Foundation**

Thank you to the 545 families who have already pledged or donated to The Foundation! Because of your generous support, we were able to present a check for ONE MILLION DOLLARS to Superintendent Dr. Nancy Lynch at the Board of Education meeting last Tuesday. While this represents half of our annual grant commitment to the District, **we still have \$1 million to go!**

To the remaining families in our district, we ask that you join in this effort! **Please pledge or donate so that we can fulfill our \$2 million commitment to RUSD.**

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From the RUSD PTA

Upcoming Parent Ed Event: "How to Raise Resilient, Gritty, and Passionate People"
-Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 - 8:30 PM,
Mill Valley Middle School Gym
To register, please [click here](#).

Rising to the Complicated Challenges of Family Relationships in the Digital Age
by Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair
Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 6:30-8:30pm
Marin County Office of Education, 111 Las Galinas Road, San Rafael
[Dr. Steiner-Adair presentation info](#)

For more information on Parent Ed events, please [click here](#).

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