



**From the Desk of Ms. Collins,  
School Director • March 16, 2017**

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am excited to let you know that California is field testing a new website designed to help communities across the state access important information about K–12 districts and schools. Called the California School Dashboard, the 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. Below is a quick introduction to the Dashboard and some steps you can take to become familiar with it.

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. The Dashboard is 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.

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.

Interested in learning more about the Dashboard?

I have already introduced parts of the Dashboard to the OCEAA Board of Directors at the February and March public meetings; to FSO, School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) leaders; and to parents who attended the Coffee Chat on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

I will be hosting two Dashboard information sessions for parents in the OCEAA Computer Lab, room 214; we are planning to post these presentations on OCEAA's Facebook page as well. Please call the front desk at (714) 558-2787 to reserve a seat as space is limited!

Session 1  
March 23  
5:30-6:30pm

Session 2  
March 29  
8:30-9:30am

Beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, you can also view the Dashboard directly at <http://www.caschooldashboard.org/>

The exciting changes taking place in education will take time to fully implement, and the Dashboard shows OCEAA is making strong academic gains and there is always more work to do. I hope you will find the Dashboard to be a helpful part of an ongoing community conversation on both how we're doing and how we can do better. Meeting goals will take a united effort, and I look forward to working with you to ensure success for every student.

Sincerely,



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