California School Dashboard

California is launching a new website this month designed to help communities access information about K-12 districts and schools. Called the California School Dashboard (https://www.caschooldashboard.org/), the site features reports on multiple measures of school success. As part of California’s emerging accountability system, the Dashboard is a tool that supports districts and schools in identifying strengths, areas for improvement and performance gaps. It is also intended help districts align resources to student outcomes through Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). It is the next step in a series of major shifts in California’s public education system that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing, and placed a focus on equity for all students.

In the past, accountability systems for schools and districts 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. The Dashboard’s multiple indicators give a fuller and more transparent picture of a school’s progress. The Dashboard’s reports, based on growth, show a school’s trajectory over time and provide data for a continuous improvement process. In addition, this tool makes it easier to identify and focus on addressing disparities among student groups.

The Dashboard is designed to be a work in progress, with metrics and reports to be added over time. When the website launches this month, data on the following indicators will be available: Suspension Rate, English Learner Progress, Graduation Rate, and academic achievement in English Language Arts and Mathematics. English Learner Progress will be measured using a formula that includes the reclassification rate and number of students who have increased one level as measured by the CELDT. The English Language Arts and Mathematics indicators are determined by Smarter Balanced (SBAC) scores for students in grades 3-8 who are continuously enrolled from the fall count date through the testing period and have been enrolled in school for at least one year.

Upon full implementation in the Fall of 2017, Chronic Absenteeism, College and Career Readiness and local indicators will be added. The College and Career Readiness indicator will include 11th grade SBAC scores. Each metric will be evaluated through a model that emphasizes continuous growth; previous years’ data is compared to the current year, yielding a performance category of blue (highest), green, yellow, orange, or red (lowest). The performance category is determined using a 5x5 grid (below), with status (most current data) categories on the vertical axis, and change (previous year to most current year) across the top:

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Once the website is launched, viewers will be able to see the performance category for each metric at the district, school and student subgroup levels. In order to receive a performance category, the school or student subgroup must have at least 30 students for each of the two years on which the data is based.

For more information on the California Accountability Model and School Dashboard see http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/. Our Curriculum and Instruction Department is available for short staff or stakeholder presentations about this new tool. Please contact Ilissa or Lo if you would like to schedule a presentation.
Junior Grace Morisset, from Owens Valley High School, received the title of 2017 Inyo County Poetry Out Loud Champion at the county finals held in Bishop on February 9. The runner-up was Ashley Miller, from Palisades-Glacier High School.

This was the seventh year that Inyo Council for the Arts has partnered with ICSOS to offer Poetry Out Loud, which is sponsored by the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and The Poetry Foundation. Retired English teacher Harold McDonald served as the county coordinator. Teachers Barbara Fernandez (BUHS), Jessica Libbee (OVHS), Rose Sabo (PGHS), and Jason Lozier (LPHS) held Poetry Out Loud classroom contests. The contestants at the county finals are the winners from those classes. Over 50 students participated this year.

At the county finals, contestants recited works they selected from an anthology of more than 900 classic and contemporary poems. Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. Grace’s recitations of “Cartoon Physics, Part 1” by Nick Flynn and “Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe, moved the guest judges, who evaluated student performances on criteria including presence, evidence of understanding, and accuracy.

Morisset moves on to compete in Sacramento March 12th and 13th, representing Inyo County in the California State Championship. The California State Champion will compete for the national title in Washington, D.C. in April. Good luck Grace!

For more information about Poetry Out Loud, contact ICA School Arts Coordinator, Erin Livingston at 760-873-8014 or SchoolArts@inyo.org.

Top Row: Grace Morisset (OVHS), Lillian Barlese (PGHS), Luke Sullivan (LPHS), Shandy Ratchford (OVHS), Viviana Martinez (BUHS), Sara Daughtry (LPHS), Michael Bragdon (PGHS), Dr. Fontana. Bottom Row: Heidy Gonzalez (OVHS), Ashley Miller (PGHS), Melissa Barlow (PGHS), Emily Kershner (BUHS).