

## **California School Dashboard – Core Messages**

California is launching a field test of the California School Dashboard, an online tool designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 districts and schools. The Dashboard is the next step in series of major shifts in public education, changes that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing and put the focus on equity.

### **Multiple Measures**

- California is leading the nation in developing a system for evaluating schools and districts that includes multiple measures of student success. The new California School Dashboard is an easy-to-use online tool to access this wealth of information, giving parents, teachers and community members a fuller picture of a school's progress.
- Instead of relying exclusively on test scores as the previous accountability system did, this new system gives a snapshot of a manageable set of indicators, including high school graduation rates, career and college readiness, English learner progress and suspension rates, while still looking at test scores.

### **Focus on Equity**

- California's future success depends on preparing every student at every school to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The additional information in the California School Dashboard can help improve equity among student groups by revealing where disparities exist.
- Having access to relevant information helps schools and districts understand where students are struggling and ensures staff can respond with resources.
- Under the previous system, data about student groups was too focused on test scores. The new system provides student group information on a variety of helpful indicators and puts it in one location.

### **Supporting Local Decision-Making**

- The Dashboard supports California's groundbreaking Local Control Funding Formula, which gives districts and schools more flexibility in using state resources.
- Districts and schools have access to the information they need to make the best local decisions about the education of children. New information will help principals, teachers, parents and community members pinpoint specific areas where schools are underperforming and need help.
- It will also help identify schools that are excelling and can help others by sharing their methods and practices.