



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 1, 2017

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DASHBOARD ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STATUS APPLICATION PROCESS

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved criteria for defining alternative schools in the new accountability system at their meeting on July 12, 2017. This criteria replaces the former application process known as the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) and requires schools **not** defined in California *Education Code (EC)* Section 52052(g) to complete an application process to receive California School Dashboard (Dashboard) Alternative School Status (DASS) every three years.

Attachment 1 provides the complete SBE-adopted eligibility and application process for the DASS. Attachment 2 is the process for withdrawal from the DASS. These materials, along with the DASS application process, are available on the California Department of Education (CDE) DASS Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/dass.asp>. Applications must be postmarked by **October 6, 2017**, for schools to be excluded from the Fall 2017 Dashboard release. The CDE encourages local educational agencies (LEAs) and direct-funded charter schools to begin the application process early to ensure the required signatures of certification are obtained in advance of the deadline.

Note: The SBE may consider revisions to the eligibility criteria pending the collection of data using the new eligibility criteria.

The CDE and SBE are committed to the development of appropriate measures for alternative schools in the new accountability system and anticipate adoption of these measures in 2018 for **inclusion in an integrated Dashboard beginning with the Fall 2018 Dashboard release**. Since these alternative indicators remain in development, alternative schools (as defined in Attachment 1), just as in the Spring 2017 Dashboard release, will **not be included** in the Fall 2017 Dashboard release.

Alternative schools identified in *EC* Section 52052(g) **do not** need to submit an application based on their school type. Schools not identified in *EC* Section 52042(g), such as alternative schools of choice or charter schools serving high-risk students as identified on entry to the school, must complete the DASS application process to be considered an alternative school in the Dashboard.

Former Alternative School Accountability Model Schools

At their May 2017 meeting, the SBE approved a requirement that schools approved under the prior ASAM must reapply for alternative status under DASS. Alternative schools of choice and charter schools serving high-risk students that had an ASAM application **approved prior to July 1, 2016**, must complete the DASS application process to be considered an alternative school. Through this letter, the CDE is also notifying all former ASAM schools of the new criteria, as well as the DASS application process to be considered an alternative school.

Schools **approved through the former ASAM process between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017**, are not required to complete the application process. A list of schools who were approved during the former ASAM process for this timeframe are posted on the CDE DASS Active Schools Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/activeschools.asp>.

District-Operated Special Education Schools

The recent SBE-approved criteria also allows district-operated special education schools to be automatically included as an alternative school in the Dashboard if at least 70 percent of the students enrolled in grades three through eight and grade eleven participated in the California Alternate Assessments (CAA). These schools are not required to complete the application process and will be held accountable under the standards adopted by the SBE for alternative indicators in the Fall 2018 Dashboard release. Note: county-operated special education schools are included in EC 52052(g) and do not need to submit an application.

District-operated special education schools with less than 70 percent of students participating in the CAA must complete the DASS application process if they would like to be considered an alternative school in the new accountability system.

If you have any questions regarding the Dashboard Alternative School Status application process, please contact the Academic Accountability Unit by e-mail at aau@cde.ca.gov or by phone at 916-319-0863.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Kazanis, Director
Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division

CK:js
Attachments

cc: LEA Accountability Coordinators
ASAM Coordinators

Criteria and Application Process for the California School Dashboard Alternative School Status

At their July 2017 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted new criteria which defines alternative schools in the California School Dashboard (Dashboard). Most schools automatically qualify for the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) under California *Education Code (EC)* Section 52052(g), while schools such as alternative schools of choice and charters serving high-risk students will need to apply to be considered an alternative school in the new system. The following distinguishes between schools which are automatically included in the new system and those that need to complete the DASS application process:

1. **Automatically Alternative Based on School Type:** Schools that have a school type identified in *EC* Section 52052(g) **automatically** qualify for an alternative status; therefore, these schools **do not need to apply** for DASS. These schools will not receive a Fall 2017 Dashboard, and will automatically be held accountable for meeting the standards that are currently in development for the alternative indicators planned for the Fall 2018 Dashboard release. The school types identified in *EC* Section 52052(g) are:
 - Continuation
 - County or District Community Day
 - Opportunity
 - County Community
 - Juvenile Court
 - California Education Authority, Division of Juvenile Justice
 - Nonpublic, nonsectarian schools
 - County-Run Special Education Schools
2. **Must Apply for Alternative Indicator Status:** Schools that are alternative schools of choice or charter schools that serve high-risk students do not have a school type identified in *EC* Section 52052(g). These schools **must apply and certify that they qualify** for alternative status. If approved, these schools will not receive a Fall 2017 Dashboard, and will automatically be held accountable for meeting the standards that are currently in development for the alternative indicators planned for the Fall 2018 Dashboard release.

To qualify for DASS, schools must meet the SBE-approved criteria that at least 70 percent of their enrollment (upon first entry to the school) is comprised of high-risk students. The definition of high-risk student groups as approved by the SBE at their July 2017, meeting is:

- a. Expelled (*EC* Section 48925[b]), including situations in which enforcement of the expulsion order was suspended (*EC* Section 48917)
- b. Suspended (*EC* Section 48925[d]) more than 10 days in a school year

- c. Wards of the Court (*Welfare and Institution Code [WIC] Section 601 or 602*) or dependents of the court (*WIC Section 300 or 654*)
- d. Pregnant and/or Parenting
- e. Recovered Dropouts, as defined in *EC Section 52052.3(b)*, as students who: (1) are designated as dropouts pursuant to the exit and withdraw codes in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), or (2) left school and were not enrolled in a school for a period of 180 days
- f. Habitually Truant (*EC Section 48262*) or Habitually Insubordinate and Disorderly whose attendance at the school is directed by a school attendance review board or probation officer (*EC Section 48263*)
- g. Retained more than once in kindergarten through grade eight
- h. Credit deficient (i.e., students who are one semester or more behind in the credits required to graduate on-time, per grade level, from the enrolling school's credit requirements)
- i. Gap in enrollment (i.e., students who have not been in any school during the 45 days prior to enrollment in the current school, where the 45 days does not include non-instructional days such as summer break, holiday break, off-track, and other days when a school is closed)
- j. High level transiency (i.e., students who have been enrolled in more than two schools during the past academic year or have changed secondary schools more than two times since entering high school)
- k. Foster Youth (*EC Section 42238.01[b]*)
- l. Homeless Youth
- m. Emotionally disturbed students (*Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations Section 300.7[c][4]*)

Applying for Dashboard Alternative School Status

To apply for DASS, alternative schools of choice and charter schools that meet the criteria for serving high-risk student groups must complete **both Part 1 (on-line participation form) and Part 2 (provide supporting documents)** of the application process.

Completing and Submitting the DASS Participation Form (Part 1)

1. Complete all fields on the [DASS Participation Form](#). (The DASS Participation Form is an online survey and must be completed by the deadline, **October 6, 2017**.)
2. Submit the completed DASS Participation Form online.
3. Once you submit the DASS Participation Form, you will be redirected to Part 2 of the Process. Approval of the DASS Participation is contingent upon completion of Part 2.

Submitting Supporting Documents (Part 2)

The local district governing board or the charter school board must certify that the school's enrollment meets the DASS criteria as an agenda item.

Note: If the school's DASS eligibility was certified by the charter school board, a letter must be sent to the charter authorizing governing board notifying them of their DASS eligibility. A copy of the notification letter must also be submitted to the CDE.

1. Obtain signatures of the school principal, county or district superintendent or charter administrator, and board president on the DASS Eligibility Certification Form found on the CDE DASS Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/instructforms.asp>.
2. Submit a copy of the board agenda and minutes that documents the approval of the DASS eligibility certification.

Send all supporting documents to dass@cde.ca.gov or by mail to:

DASS Team
Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5408
Sacramento, CA 95814

Terms of Participation

Beginning with the Fall 2017 Dashboard, all alternative schools of choice or charter schools that serve high-risk students participating in the DASS program will be required to re-certify their high-risk student enrollments every three years. Therefore, schools approved for DASS for the Fall 2017 Dashboard will need to re-certify before the Fall 2020 Dashboard release. If a school fails to re-certify its high-risk student enrollment or the school's enrollment of high-risk students fall below 70 percent, *the school will be removed from the DASS program*.

All DASS Participates must maintain documentation of the 70 percent of students reflected on their DASS Participation Form. The CDE will conduct annual reviews and failure to provide such documentation may result in termination of the school's DASS.

If a school no longer wants to be identified or participate in the DASS program, they must notify the CDE by completing the Withdrawal from DASS Participation Form by the deadline on October 6, 2017. A link to the online form is available on the CDE DASS Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/instructforms.asp>. Submission of a withdrawal form will result in being ineligible to participate in the DASS program for three years.

Withdrawal from California School Dashboard Alternative School Status

Alternative schools with a school type identified in California *Education Code (EC)* Section 52052(g), will automatically receive a California School Dashboard (Dashboard) Alternative School Status (DASS). Schools approved under the former Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) between July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017, will also automatically receive a DASS.

If your school *does not* wish to be held accountable under the alternative school indicators, you must submit a Withdrawal from DASS Participation Form to the California Department of Education (CDE) by October 6, 2017. Any school that withdraws their alternative status will receive an annual Dashboard report and will be held accountable to the standards for traditional schools. Submission of a withdrawal form will result in being ***ineligible to participate in the DASS program for three years***. The withdrawal form is available on the CDE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/instructforms.asp>.