

Updated Dashboard Provides Lompoc Unified School District with Rich Data

Lompoc, CA. – The California Department of Education launched today an update of the California School Dashboard, a key element of the State’s new school accountability system. The updated Dashboard includes new data for chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness as well as indicators on suspension and graduation rates, standardized assessment results, and English learner progress. The Dashboard also includes local indicators that school districts can develop and report themselves, reflecting a move to greater local control.

First unveiled in March 2017, the Dashboard provides parents, educators, and the public with important information about schools in an easy-to-understand format. Unlike the previous accountability system, which relied exclusively on test scores and gave schools a single performance number, the Dashboard includes several measures of success to provide a more in-depth picture of how students are doing over time. School districts may now dive deep into an extensive set of data to ensure that overall progress is not masking setbacks to individual student groups. The data also helps districts develop Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) and programs based on solid information about student needs.

Superintendent Trevor McDonald stated, “The Dashboard provides a wealth of information that allows school districts to make informed decisions. The District, parents, and the public can also see whether progress is shared among student groups, which is a powerful tool in ensuring that our education system is equitable.”

While the Dashboard provides a rich set of data to understand individual schools, it is now not as easy to compare schools since the indicators on the Dashboard are reported as composites of both current status and change. For example, an indicator could reflect a school that is low status but that experienced a positive change or a school with higher status that experienced a decline. The rich data the Dashboard provides is considerably more helpful in addressing student needs and assessing district performance than the single, more easily compared number of the State’s former accountability system.

For Lompoc Unified School District, the Dashboard data reveal areas of strength and weakness as well as a persistent gap in performance among student groups. A positive note is growth in the District’s Graduation Rate and College and Career Readiness Indicator. LUSD’s graduation rate of 93.6 percent represents an increase of 3% over last year, with English learners increasing their graduation rate to 88.1%, a 6.8% improvement. The number of students that were identified as College and Career Ready improved to 36.6%, an increase of 4.2%. An area of continuing concern is the District’s academic performance in mathematics and persistent achievement gaps with students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, English learners and special education.

“We continue to have a lot of work to do to help all of our students succeed,” explained Superintendent McDonald, “however, we now have the data to

understand the specific needs and develop appropriate programs and tools to address them.”