

## **Differentiated Assistance Talking Points**

Since the YCOE has differing roles in relationship to the Dashboard, this statement and these talking points are meant to reflect the YCOE's views on the Dashboard in relationship to its countywide role and its role as a provider of alternative education.

### **Statement:**

School districts are the primary drivers of the type of assistance and support they receive under California's new accountability and improvement system for education.

This is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Local challenges are best addressed by local organizations, which have access to the information they need to make the best decisions about the education of local children. The Yolo County Office of Education will work as a partner with school districts in their efforts to provide continuous improvement and opportunity for academic success to all students in San Joaquin County.

### **Key points, focusing on Educational Services and the countywide perspective:**

Under state law that is part of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), county offices of education are the first point of contact for school districts identified as eligible for technical assistance -- also known as differentiated assistance.

A district is identified if it has not improved performance of a particular student group within two or more of the LCFF state priorities. This "technical assistance" offers multiple options for school districts.

The YCOE collaborates with districts and meets with the districts identified by the state through the California School Dashboard.

Next steps depend on the needs and decisions of the districts. The YCOE is available to provide additional support and services. Other options available to districts include, among other things, working with other assistance providers or requesting assistance from the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE).

The technical assistance available to districts is in line with Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) adopted by schools with input from their communities. The LCFF, LCAP, and the Dashboard are part of a series of major shifts in public education that has created more rigorous academic standards for students, changed how students are assessed, and placed the focus on equity for all students.

Students are more than just test scores. The Dashboard gives parents a fuller picture of student performance by displaying statewide data on graduation rates, suspension rates, school attendance rates, college/career readiness rates *and* test scores. It also includes local information about school climate and conditions, parent engagement and basic services.

**Key points, focusing on County Operated Schools and Programs and the alternative education perspective:**

- County offices of education, by definition, serve a wide variety of students, many of whom have struggled succeeding in traditional schools. The population includes students who are:
  - Foster youth
  - In the juvenile justice system
  - Pregnant or teen parents
  - Coming into our programs with a history of truancy, disciplinary, or academic issues
  - Students who have suffered trauma.
- That student population is fluid. Usually the best place for students who come to the YCOE from school districts is to eventually return to their school districts.
- The number of students we serve in alternative education programs at any given time during the school year is around 2,000. However, the total number of students in those programs throughout the year is closer to 5,000.
- The Dashboard is a better tool to measure traditional K-12 schools than it is suited for county offices of education, but it is still collecting and reporting data to help us identify where our students need the most support.
- The Dashboard results mirror ongoing action we are taking to achieve goals identified in our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).
- LCAP goals:
  - Improving student attendance by decreasing truancy
  - Improving academic rigor and consistency across student programs
  - Improving our capacity for building and growing relationships between our programs and students, parents, and the community
  - (See the one-pager for more information, if needed.)
- The YCOE will continue to use the Dashboard and other data to inform our Local Control Accountability Plan.