

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Launches California School Dashboard

Manhattan Beach, CA, March 15, 2017

California is field testing a new website designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 districts and schools. Called the **California School Dashboard**, the site features reports on multiple measures of school success, including test scores, graduation rates, English learner progress and suspension rates. The Dashboard is part of California's new school accountability system based on 2013's Local Control Funding Formula. It is the next step in a series of major shifts in public education that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing and placed the focus on equity for *all* students, so they graduate ready for college, careers and life.

The Dashboard replaces the Academic Performance Index, which assigned a number from 200 to 1000 to each school and each district. While some appreciated the simple one-number assessment of a school, many believed that it was too simple, and it did not convey whether a school or district was improving, nor did it share other important indicators of student success.

"The best part of the California School Dashboard," MBUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Matthews states, "is that it recognizes schools and districts that are improving. In the old API system, schools that were making remarkable changes and showing drastic improvements in test scores received absolutely no recognition for that improvement. The Dashboard uses a 5x5 grid so everyone can know (1) whether student achievement is high or low, and (2) whether student achievement is improving or declining. It does take more time than looking at a number. But I do encourage parents to take just five minutes to review the Dashboard to get a complete picture of how a school or district is doing."

Parents can find MBUSD’s Dashboard at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org>. Much of the dashboard is based on last Spring’s CAASPP scores. You can find the district’s press release from August 24, 2016 on those scores [here](#). Some of the key data from the MBUSD dashboard include:

- Student suspensions rates are very low
- All schools are “Very High” when it comes to English Language Arts scores
- All elementary schools are very high in Math scores. MBMS math achievement is “high,” and is also shown as improving and moving towards “very high” status.

As mentioned above, the California School Dashboard is still developing, and this report is considered as a field test. The high school data report is still developing, and will be released in pieces throughout this spring and summer. Schools are checking on some data points to validate the state reports.

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ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD’s Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.