



LINKED LEARNING ALLIANCE

SB 1458 (Steinberg)

Senator Steinberg’s bill has been signed into law by the Governor. SB 1458 stands to significantly alter the structure of California’s Academic Performance Index (API), changing the criteria by which public schools are held accountable. The new API has the potential to include factors aimed at measuring college and career readiness, thus relying less on student achievement on standardized tests.

Changes to the Academic Performance Index (API)

Standardized Testing

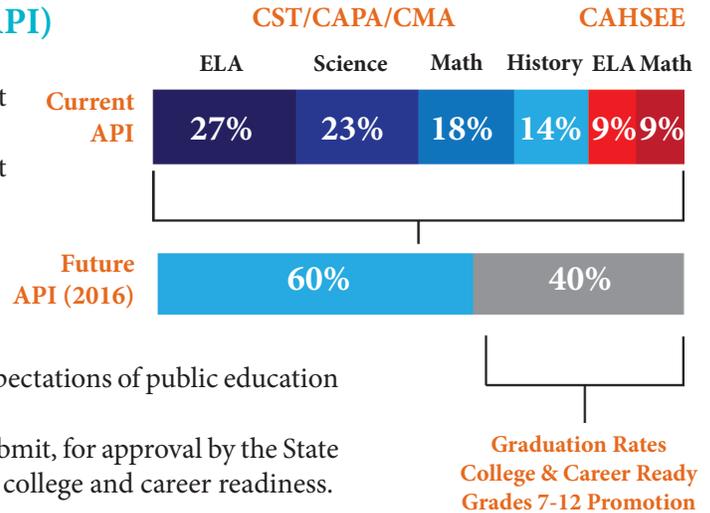
- For high schools, sets a limit of 60% for standardized test performance, currently constituting 100% of the API.
- In primary and middle schools, standardized test performance will comprise at least 60% of the API.

Graduation & Promotion

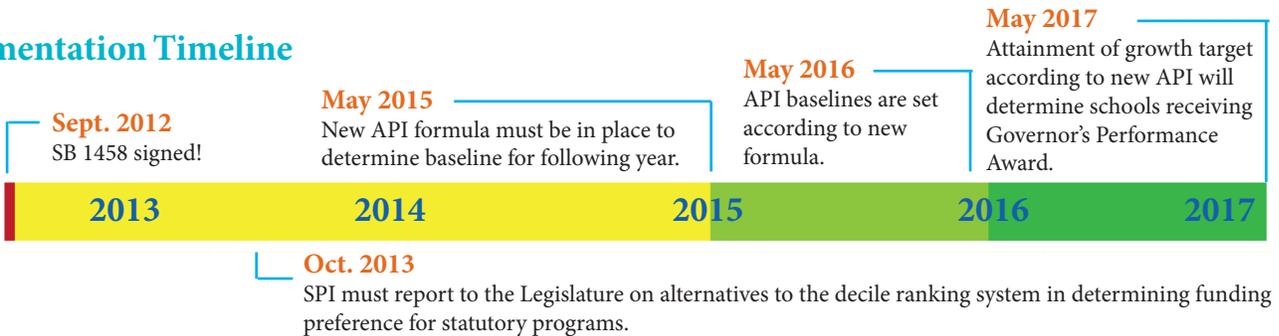
- Must include graduation rates in the remaining 40%.
- Permits inclusion of promotion rates for grades 7-12.

College & Career Readiness

- Emphasizes the need for the remaining 40% to reflect the expectations of public education and the needs of the state’s workforce.
- Permits the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to submit, for approval by the State Board of Education, *valid, reliable, and stable measures* of college and career readiness.



Implementation Timeline



Implications for Linked Learning

By adding graduation rates and valid measures of college and career readiness to the state’s accountability metric, while maintaining a primary role for standardized assessments in English, math, science, and history (both through next-generation Common Core assessments and the exit exam), SB 1458 recognizes schools which use Linked Learning and related strategies to improve student engagement and completion, broaden the scope of learning (including career education), and improve preparation for both college and career. By limiting the new API factors to “valid, reliable, and stable measures of college and career readiness”, the bill sets an appropriate standard, that is already being tackled by many in the Linked Learning field.

Creation of Local Review Panels

As part of the bill, the SPI is encouraged to develop school quality reviews to complement the API. The review process would feature locally convened panels to visit schools, observe teachers, interview pupils and examine pupil work.

Alternatives to the Decile System

The SPI must report to the Legislature, by October 1, 2013, on alternative methods, in place of decile rank, for determining eligibility, preferences, or priorities for statutory programs currently using decile rank as a determining factor.