



California: Academic Performance Index (API)

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Legal Requirements

- According to the legislation creating the API in 1999, the API must include, but is not limited to, the results of:
 - ❖ STAR achievement tests
 - ❖ Matrix test (not developed)
 - ❖ Attendance rates (when accurate and available)
 - ❖ Graduation rates (when accurate and available)
 - ❖ CAHSEE
- Test results must constitute at least 60% of API



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Basic Characteristics of API Calculation

- Based on results of tests
- Scale of 200-1000
- Five performance levels/bands with progressive performance level weights of 200, 500, 700, 875, 1000
- Weighting for each test/content area from .03 to .48
- API is the weighted average of the performance levels and test weights
- State and similar schools ranks



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API Targets

- Statewide performance level of 800
- The target for schools and subgroups below 800 is 5% of the distance to 800 with a minimum of 5



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Tests Used in the API and AYP

State Test Results Used in API and AYP Calculations	
Academic Performance Index (API)	Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
California Standards Tests (CSTs)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts, mathematics, history-social science, and science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eleven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eight
California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eleven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eight and ten
California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade ten (and eleven and twelve if the student passed) • Passed = score of 350 or above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade ten • Proficient = score of 380 or above
California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reading, language arts, spelling, and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades three and seven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not used in AYP

Notes: The CST in history-social science is currently only counted for grades eight, ten, and eleven. The CST in science is only included at grades five and eight through eleven. In addition, a CST in life science is given at grade ten. The CAPA is a standards-based test for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the CSTs, even with accommodations or modifications.



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API and AYP Tests by Grade

Test/ Grades	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CST ELA	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	API	API	API	
CST Math	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	API	API	API	
CST History							API		API	API	
CST Science				API			API	API	API	API	
CAHSEE ELA									both	API	API
CAHSEE Math									both	API	API
NRT - 4 tests		API				API					
CAPA ELA	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	API	Both	API	
CAPA Math	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	API	Both	API	

Standards Tests not used in API and AYP



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- Standards test in Spanish (New in 2007)
- Physical Education tests



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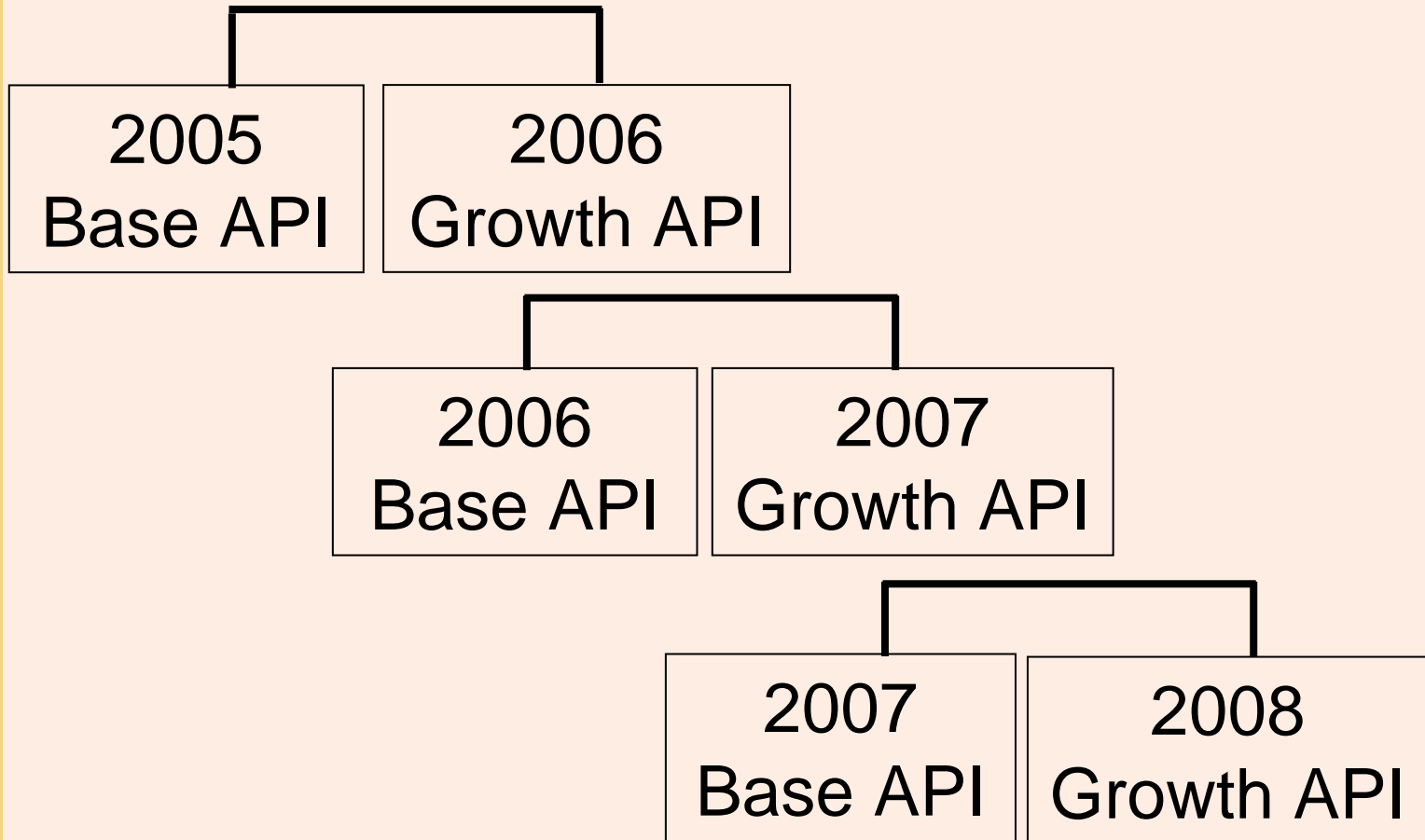
API Reporting Cycles

2005

2006

2007

2008



API Indicators Phase-In, 1999-2006



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Indicators	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program								
- Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) Stanford 9								
Grades 2-11	X	X	X	X				
- Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) California Achievement Test, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey)								
Grades 2-11 for 2003 Beginning 2004, gr. 3, 7 only					X	X	X	X
- California Standards Tests (CSTs)								
Grades 2-11: ELA			X	X	X	X	X	X
Grades 2-11: Math Grades 10-11: HSS				X	X	X	X	X
Grades 9-11: Science Grades 2-11: CAPA					X	X	X	X
Grade 5: Science (NCLB) Grade 8: HSS						X	X	X
Grade 8: Science (NCLB) Grade 10: Life Science (NCLB)								X
California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)								
Grades 10-12: ELA, Math				X	X	X	X	X



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Percentage of Schools Making AYP/API in 2007

School Type	Met AYP and API	Met API Only	Met AYP Only	Failed Both
Elementary	42%	9%	33%	16%
Middle	22%	13%	18%	47%
High	21%	6%	45%	28%
All Schools	35%	9%	32%	23%



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API Pros or Strengths

- API supports high expectations
- API requires continuous improvement
- API is sensitive to improvement by all students
- API supports closing achievement gaps
- API focuses on the lowest-performing students
- API is comprehensive



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API Pros or Strengths (cont.)

- API allows for the addition of new measures
- API identifies the right schools for intervention
- Enhances validity
- Conducive to a Culture of Accountability
- No long conjunctive criteria



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API Pros or Strengths (cont.)

- Makes it easier to compare schools
- Focus priorities by weighting tests
- Lends importance to indicators
- Allows fine tuning with secondary indicators
- Flexibility to add new indicators



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API Cons or Weaknesses

- New indicators Vs. long-term measurement
- “Christmas-tree syndrome”
- API details are too difficult to understand
- API misuse
- Difficult to describe any specific API
- Difficult to describe meaning of specific target



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Incentives

- API is an awards based system providing almost \$700 million in awards in 2000 through 4 different awards programs
- API scores are scrutinized closely by the public especially when choosing a school to attend
- House prices in California vary in relationship to the API state rank



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Public Understanding

While the public does not understand the details of the API, they do generally understand:

- The API is based on test scores
- The state ranks which are based on the API
- Growth targets
- The performance target for all schools is 800

The public does not understand the use of test weights or performance level weights



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API Studies

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/researchreports.asp>

Statistical Properties Reports - California API and Awards

[Accuracy of API Index and School Base Report Elements - 2003](#)

[Academic Performance Index](#) *David Rogosa, December 2005*

[What's the Magnitude of False Positives in GPA Award Programs?](#) *David Rogosa, September 2002*

[Application of OCR "margin of error" to API Award Programs](#) *Rogosa, Sept 2002*

[Plan and Preview for API Accuracy Reports](#) *David Rogosa, July 2002*

[Accuracy of API Index and School Base Report Elements](#) *Rogosa, Dec 2002*

[Year 2001 Update: Accuracy of API Index and School Base Report Elements](#) *David Rogosa, December 2002*

[Year 2000 Update: Accuracy of API Index and School Base Report Elements](#) *David Rogosa, December 2002*



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Contact Information

The 2007 API Information Guide is
Available on the CDE Web site
at: [http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/
documents/infoguide07g.pdf](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/documents/infoguide07g.pdf)

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