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Dashboard Still Lacks Transparency for Parents and Policymakers

SACRAMENTO – The latest iteration of the California School Dashboard is another reminder – in a long string of reminders – that way too many of California's kids aren't getting what they deserve from public schools. While the updated interface might have a different look, there's not a different reality for our 6.2 million public school students or transparency into whether schools are really working for every child, or not.

The update of the Dashboard remains confusing and complex. It continues to obscure important equity data, forcing users who want to find performance of specific student subgroups through a maze of more mouse clicks. Users are more likely to give up trying to access real data that matters than wander through the obscurity of indecipherable charts with bureaucratic footnotes further clicks away.

Fresh graphics don't change the fact that the California School Dashboard has no functionality to find student growth over time, high schools' chronic absenteeism rates or English Learner progress. There's no way to see if a school has been identified for support under President Obama's criteria for low performance. Wouldn't you like to know if the school you're searching for has been flagged as struggling enough to need extra resources and what interventions may be on the horizon? If California is serious about a different reality for all our public school children, we need real transparency and bold change, not updates to graphics.

Kids deserve better.

About EdVoice

EdVoice is a nonprofit grassroots network of over 50,000 parents, community leaders, educators, and the state's leading education philanthropists, working together to dramatically increase measurable student achievement and eliminate educational inequality for all children.

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