CALIFORNIA HONOR ROLL METHODOLOGY

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The Honor Roll, presented by Educational Results Partnership (ERP), is part of the national Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE). The Campaign engages business leaders in recognizing successful schools and educational systems that are preparing students with the fundamental skills needed to be successful in the workforce and in life. The Honor Roll is the only school recognition program presented in partnership with state and local business leaders and using solely objective student achievement data as the criteria. The goal of the Honor Roll is to find and highlight successful schools and districts and encourage collaboration among educators on best practices for raising student achievement.

Honor Roll schools and districts represent those that were comprehensively higher performing on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) English Language Arts and Math Assessments, for all cohorts of student populations served, and that are improving outcomes for historically underserved student populations. To make the Honor Roll, a school or district must have comprehensively performed above the mean (trendline) at least 80 percent of the time for all cohorts of students served and for all grade levels served.

Data made publicly available by the California Department of Education (CDE) for the 2026 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) was used to conduct the analysis. Raw data was pulled from CAASPP research files containing both school and district level results and provided by CDE through the CAASPP results website.

The methodology applies to peer groups of schools and districts so that similar schools and districts are compared to each other. Peer groups for schools were based on public, locally funded charter, and directly funded charter. Peer groups for districts were based on elementary, high school and unified. Schools and districts were further split into two categories:

- **STAR Schools and Districts**: Schools and districts with greater than, or equal to, 33 percent of students designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged (high poverty).
- **Scholar Schools and Districts**: Schools and districts with fewer than 33 percent of students designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged (low poverty).

To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a minimum population of 100 students for schools and 500 students for districts was required. Juvenile Court Schools, Continuation Schools, and Home and Hospital schools were not eligible. District Ownership Code Types: County Office of Education (COE), Regional Occupation Center/Program (ROC/P), State Board of Education, State Special Schools, Statewide Benefit Charter, Non-School Locations were also excluded.

The number of Honor Roll schools and districts in each category was not predetermined; the results of the model determined the number. The methodology assessed eligible schools and districts performance on each of the following metrics:

- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for non-Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for SPED Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for non-SPED Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for Hispanic / Latino Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for White Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for Black Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for Native American/Alaska Native Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for Asian Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math for Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for non-Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for SPED Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for non-SPED Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for Hispanic / Latino Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for White Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for Black Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for Native American/Alaska Native Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for Asian Students.
- Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts for Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander Students.

The methodology searched for schools and districts that comprehensively performed above the trendline on the above metrics at least 80 percent of the time for their peer school group and category for the last 3 years of CAASPP testing (2024, 2025 and 2026). Demographic groups that are below 11 students were excluded from the dataset, in compliance with federal student privacy requirements.

Schools and districts comprehensively performing in the highest 20 percent in ELA and Math for their respective category, but that had either Black or African American or Hispanic or Latino student outcomes below 80 percent of the trendline for any grade level in the three performing years, were removed from the list unless the school or district demonstrated an improvement in Percentage Advanced or Proficient for Math and Percentage Advanced or Proficient for English Language Arts between the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school year.

To validate the results, a testing suite was performed against the dataset. This included unit tests to validate that each of the procedures used to generate the list was functioning correctly. Integration tests were run on the source files to make sure the data flow was correct and data integrity maintained. Functional tests were performed to confirm all business requirements of the methodology were implemented. The final methodology of Honor Roll schools and districts was then externally reviewed by two independent individuals who are not associated with Educational Results Partnership. These individuals have decades of experience working with educational data and performed randomized spot checks to confirm the output was consistent with the methodology.

About the Honor Roll

The California Honor Roll is produced by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and presented by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence in collaboration with 28 Chambers of Commerce throughout the state including the California Chamber of Commerce's Foundation for Commerce and Education, California Black Chamber of Commerce, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, CalAsian Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, San Joaquin A+, and other business leaders. For more information visit the ERP website at www.edresults.org or the Campaign website at edcampaign.org.

The full list of Honor Roll schools and districts can be viewed at:
https://www.honorrollschools.com/