

What is API?

API was a concept created by the State of California.

API stands for the Academic Performance Index. The API was created in California in 1999 as a means of determining whether or not schools were making improvement in student achievement. API is a scale of 200 to 1000.

- If all students at a school were in the highest 20% then the school's API would be 1000.
- If all students at a school were in the lowest 20% then the school's API would be 200.
- Every school has the goal of reaching at least 800.

What Should Students Know?

California set rigorous standards for what students should know and be able to do in English/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Science. The **California Standards Tests** assess student performance in grades 2-8. 95% of students must be tested.

How Does the API Measure Learning?

Each year California calculates the results of the state tests to determine the API for each school. The **API emphasizes growth** with extra weight for scores in schools that successfully move students from the lowest achievement levels to the higher levels.

What is AYP?

AYP was a concept created by the United States Government in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

AYP stands for Adequate Yearly Progress. Federal Legislation requires all schools to increase the number of students who are found to be "proficient". The AYP is simply the percent of students who have been rated proficient in Language Arts and Mathematics. Each school must meet minimum AYP requirements that increase gradually until 2014 when 100% of students are to be proficient.

In California "proficient" has been defined as being on grade level. In test terms, this means that a student will be considered proficient if s/he scores as "proficient" or "advanced" on the California Standards Test in both Language Arts and Math.

AYP – Adequate Yearly Progress

The federal **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)** Act of 2002 requires all schools to demonstrate **Adequate Yearly Progress or AYP** in four areas:

1. 95 participation rate;
2. annual minimum percentages at the Advanced or Proficient level
3. high performance or growth on the API

How is Performance Measured?

Each state sets **Annual Measurable Objectives**, or **AMOs**, for the percentage of all students a subgroups at the Advanced or Proficient performance levels. **AYP emphasizes performance** at proficient and advanced levels rather than growth across all levels. California's rigorous standards and expectations at the Advanced or Proficient level aim to prepare all students for success at a four-year college or University.

What makes the two scores different?

It is possible for a school to meet its API goals and not its AYP goals. The opposite can also happen although it is less likely. This can happen because:

- AYP and API are based on a different set of tests.
- API takes into account growth; AYP is a simple measurement of the percent of students rated proficient emphasizing performance
- AYP growth is based on increasing the number of students who are proficient (a special percent is identified for each year)
- API growth is based on increasing a school's score each year. The annual goal for each school is 5% increase between the present score and 800 (or if above 800 to maintain the score).

How will AYP and API affect my child?

AYP and API provide different means of feedback to parents and schools about the effectiveness of school improvement efforts. When used wisely each of these Indexes can be an important indicator. AYP and API scores do not provide individual student scores so when looking at the growth of a particular student, the focus should be on actual test results and not the index scores.



How do AYP and API Compare?

	API	AYP
What is measured?	Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	Language Arts, Math
What tests are used?	California Achievement Test, California Standards Test, California High School Exit Exam	California Standards Test For K-8, California High School Exit Exam for 9-12
What is the goal?	A score of at least 800	All students proficient by 2014, the required minimum % proficient increase each year
Who is counted?	Total School Total District Each racial/ethnic group Economically disadvantaged students	Total School Total District Each racial/ethnic group Economically disadvantaged students English Learners Special Education Students
What happens if goals are not met?	Program Improvement Schools that do not show improvement may be sanctioned, restructured or taken over by the state	School receiving Title funds must offer choice, supplemental services and may be restructured or taken over by the state
Who must be tested?	90% of students (9-12 95% of students (K-8)	95% of students