INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District

TO:        Members, Board of Education
           John E. Deasy, PhD., Superintendent

FROM:     Cynthia Lim, Executive Director
           Office of Data and Accountability

SUBJECT:    2012 API BASE, GROWTH TARGETS AND SCHOOL RANKINGS

On Thursday, May 23, 2013, the California Department of Education (CDE) will release the 2012 Academic Performance Index (API) Base scores, growth targets and school rankings. **This release does not contain any new achievement data.** The 2012 API Base scores are calculated using results from spring 2012 testing and are used to set growth targets for spring 2013 testing. In September 2013, the 2013 API Growth scores will be released based on the results of spring 2013 testing.

**2012 API Base**

The API is a single number, ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1000, that reflects a school's or district's performance based on the results of statewide testing. The statewide performance target for API is 800. Each year, two reports are provided to measure improvement from year to year: API Base and API Growth. The API Base begins the reporting cycle and provides a baseline against which to compare next year's API Growth.

**Changes to the 2012 API Base**

Each year, API scores are recalibrated as assessments are added or eliminated to maintain consistency in base and growth API scores. The 2012 API Base scores were adjusted to include the following changes:

- Grade eight and nine students taking the General Mathematics California Standards Test (CST) will no longer have their performance bands lowered. In the past, grade eight scores were lowered by one performance level and grade nine scores were lowered by two performance levels.
- Grade four and seven writing results will no longer be included in the calculation of the API. The exclusion is due to the change that writing results will be reported separately from the multiple choice sections and will not be part of the calculation of scale scores for English Language Arts.
- High school graduation rates and dropout rates for grades 8 and 9 are NOT included in the 2012 API Base scores as previously anticipated.

## API Growth Targets

API Base scores are used to establish schoolwide growth targets as well as targets for significant subgroups. Growth targets vary according to the API Base as indicated in Table 1 below. Schools and subgroups with API Base scores below 690 are expected to grow by 5% of the difference between the API Base and 800. Schools and subgroups with an API Base of 691-799 need to gain one to five points to meet targets. Schools and subgroups with an API Base of 800 or higher do not have specific targets. They need to maintain their API Growth scores of 800 or higher.

Table 1
2012-13 Growth Targets

| 2012 Base API Range | 2013 Growth Target |
|---|---|
| 200 – 690 | 5% of the difference between API Base and 800 (rounded to the nearest whole number) |
| 691 – 795 | 5-point gain |
| 796 – 799 | 4-point to 1-point gain to reach 800 |
| 800 or higher | Maintain a Growth API of 800 or more |

## API Target for Adequate Yearly Progress

API scores are also used as a criterion to determine whether schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). For the upcoming 2013 AYP to be released in September 2013, the API target is **770** or a growth of at least one point. In 2012, schools had to meet an API Growth of 740 or grow at least one point.

## School Rankings

The 2012 API Base reports provide two types of rankings: statewide rank and similar schools rank. School rankings let schools and the public know how schools are performing in comparison to other schools in the state and in their communities. Ranks are determined separately by elementary, middle and high schools. Special education centers, options schools and small schools do not receive ranks.

Statewide ranks are calculated by sorting API scores from highest to lowest for each school type. The sorted API scores are then divided into 10 equal groups (deciles) ranked from highest (10) to lowest (1). A school's statewide rank shows a school's relative placement compared to all other schools in the state of the same school type, e.g., elementary, middle and high schools.

Charts 1 and 2 provide the distribution of schools by statewide rank for LAUSD and charter schools. In 2012, there were fewer LAUSD schools with a statewide rank of 1, compared to the previous two years and a slight increase in the percentage of schools with a rank of 9 and 10.

Chart 1

**Distribution of LAUSD\* Schools by Statewide Rank
2009 to 2012**



\*Does not include independent charters
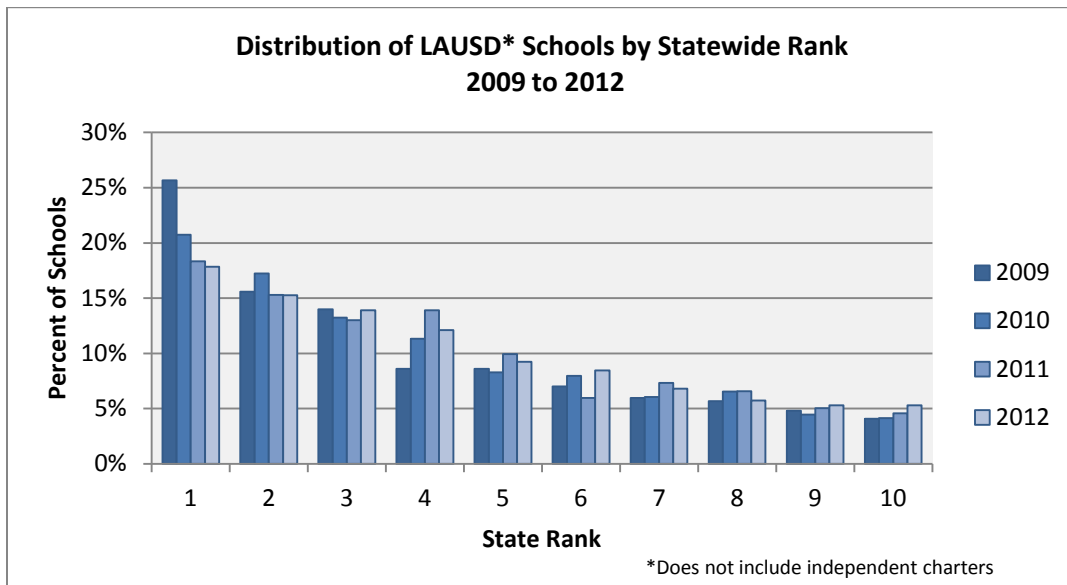
Among charter schools, there was a decrease in the percentage of schools with a rank of 1 from the previous two years.

Chart 2

**Distribution of Independent Charter Schools by Statewide Rank
2009 to 2012**
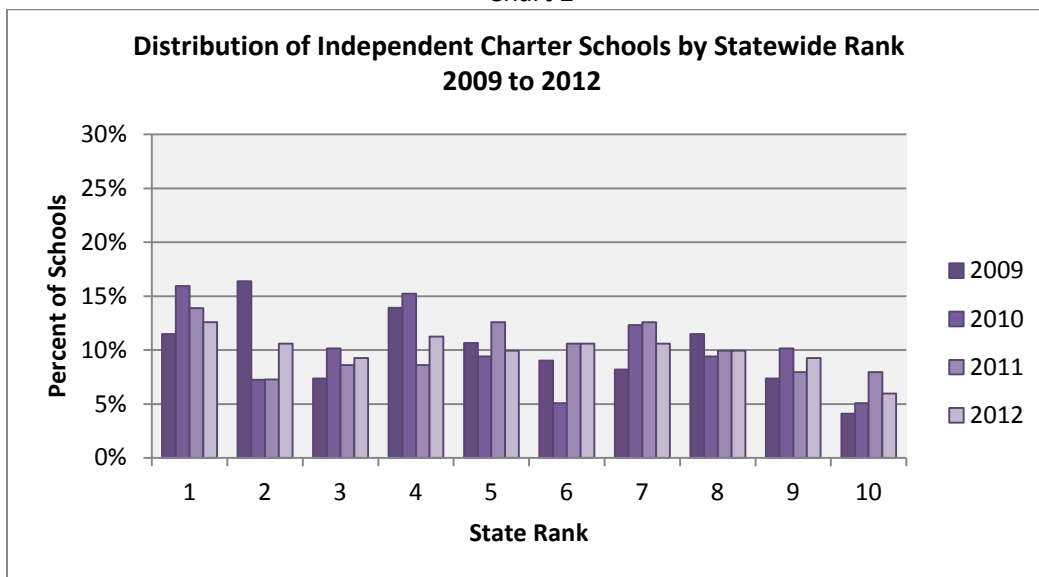


The similar schools rank compares a school to 100 other schools with similar opportunities and challenges. The similar schools rank takes into account demographic characteristics of schools, such as socio-economic status, pupil mobility, pupil ethnicity, language classification, etc. The similar schools rank allows schools to look at their academic performance compared to other schools with some of the same opportunities and challenges.

Schools with a statewide rank of 1 and a similar school rank of 1 (1:1) are performing at the lowest decile across the state and in comparison to similar schools. At the top end of the scale, schools with a statewide rank of 10 and a similar school rank of 10 (10:10) are among the top of all schools statewide and among similar schools.

Table 3 shows that for LAUSD schools, the number of schools in the lowest ranks (1:1) remained at 43 compared to the previous year, representing 7% of the schools with API ranks. The number of schools at the highest ranks (10:10) grew from six to ten, representing 2% of schools with ranks.

Table 3
Number and Percentage of LAUSD Schools at Top and Bottom API Ranks

| API Base | LAUSD Schools | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | # of Schools | Bottom Rank 1:1 | Top Rank 10:10 | % Bottom Rank | % Top Rank |
| 2008 | 596 | 26 | 6 | 4% | 1% |
| 2009 | 611 | 44 | 4 | 7% | 1% |
| 2010 | 618 | 57 | 3 | 9% | 0% |
| 2011 | 645 | 43 | 6 | 7% | 1% |
| 2012 | 661 | 43 | 10 | 7% | 2% |

Among charter schools, seven schools were in the lowest ranks and seven schools were in the highest ranks. This was a slight decrease from the previous year.

Table 4
Number and Percentage of Charter Schools at Top and Bottom API Ranks

| API Base | Charter Schools | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | # of Schools | Bottom Rank 1:1 | Top Rank 10:10 | % Bottom Rank | % Top Rank |
| 2008 | 105 | 5 | 3 | 5% | 3% |
| 2009 | 105 | 5 | 3 | 5% | 3% |
| 2010 | 121 | 6 | 5 | 5% | 4% |
| 2011 | 132 | 8 | 8 | 6% | 6% |
| 2012 | 151 | 7 | 7 | 5% | 5% |

Table 5 presents a matrix of statewide rank and similar schools rank for LAUSD schools. Schools on the diagonal (in gray) have the same statewide and similar schools rank. Schools above the diagonal have similar schools ranks that are higher than their statewide rank. For example, for schools with a statewide rank of 5, there are six schools with a similar schools rank of 10, meaning these schools are outperforming other schools with similar challenges even though they are at a statewide rank of 5.

Schools below the diagonal have similar schools ranks that are below their statewide rank. For example, there are three schools with a state rank of 9 but a similar school rank of 1, meaning they are performing below 90% of other schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics.

Table 5
Number of Schools by Statewide Rank and Similar Schools Rank

| 2012 Base | Similar Schools Rank | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Well below Average | | Below Average | | About Average | | Above Average | | Well-above Average | | |
| State Rank | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 43 | 31 | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 2 | | | | 118 |
| 2 | 3 | 19 | 19 | 34 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 101 |
| 3 | | 4 | 9 | 11 | 25 | 14 | 16 | 11 | 2 | | 92 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 6 | 3 | 80 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 12 | 6 | 61 |
| 6 | | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 56 |
| 7 | | | 3 | | 5 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 45 |
| 8 | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 38 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 35 |
| 10 | | 1 | 1 | | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 35 |
| Total | 52 | 63 | 66 | 74 | 74 | 62 | 68 | 70 | 70 | 63 | 661 |

Among LAUSD schools, 47% improved their rankings this year, 20% remained at the same ranking and 31% decreased either their state, similar school or both rankings. Among charter schools, 32% improved their rankings from last year, 16% remained the same and 38% decreased their ranking compared to last year.

Table 6
Change in API Base Rankings from Previous Year

| | LAUSD | | Charters | |
| | # of Schools | % of Schools | # of Schools | % of Schools |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Decreased | 202 | 31% | 58 | 38% |
| Maintained | 132 | 20% | 24 | 16% |
| Improved | 309 | 47% | 49 | 32% |
| 2012 Rank only | 18 | 3% | 20 | 13% |
| | 661 | | 151 | |

Attachment A lists the 2012 API Base scores, growth targets and rankings by school. Additional information can be found at the following website: http://www.cde.ca.gov/api/.

If there are additional questions, please contact me or Grace Pang Bovy at (213) 241-2460.

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