

3.2 Educational Options Schools and Programs

Introduction

Educational options include schools or programs of choice and schools or programs to which students are referred voluntarily or involuntarily. These schools and programs (sometimes referred to as “alternative”) provide the environment, curriculum, and support systems needed to ensure that participating students have the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential and earn their high school diplomas.

These data were previously collected as aggregate counts through CBEDS.

Methods of collection in CALPADS and ORA

After analyzing the educational options programs collected in CBEDS, it was determined that, depending on the school type or program, student participation in these programs could be collected at the school level, student level, or course level. Thus, school-level data are now being collected through the Online Reporting Application (ORA) system, and student and course-level data are now collected through CALPADS.

The following table outlines the methodology used to collect program participation data for each of the educational options school types and programs.

Collection System	How Collected	Educational Options School Type or Program*
CALPADS	Participation is collected at the student level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Partnership Academies. Opportunity programs. Pregnant or Parenting programs (including Cal-SAFE programs).
CALPADS	Participation is determined by course enrollment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AVID. Independent study. International Baccalaureate programs.
ORA	Program participation is determined by enrollment in an educational options school type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative schools of choice. Magnet schools. Smaller learning communities. Thematic schools.

*NOTE: The Specialized Secondary Program was included in the Categorical Consolidation and therefore will not be collected in CALPADS.

Why are these data needed?

Many students participating in educational options programs are at high risk of dropping out or of failing academically. The California Department of Education responds to numerous inquiries from the State Legislature, the Office of the Governor, and the State Board of Education for data on these specific student populations because of the significant effect that these populations have on graduation and dropout rates.

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3.2 Educational Options Schools and Programs, Continued

Educational options data elements

The following data elements in CALPADS are used to calculate counts of students participating in educational options programs:

Student Program Data *(submitted in the Student Program file)*

Field #	Data Element Public Name	Comment
3.13	Education Program Code	<p>LEAs should report all students participating in the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Partnership Academies. • Opportunity programs. • Pregnant or Parenting programs (including Cal-SAFE programs). <p>Refer to the CALPADS Code Sets, Education Program, for program codes.</p>

Course Data *(submitted in the Course Section and Student Course Section files)*

Field #	Data Element Public Name	Comment
9.07	CRS-State Course Code	<p>Students enrolled in or completing courses with the following State Course Codes will be considered participants in these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVID (Code 6023). • International Baccalaureate (IB) (various codes).
9.23	Independent Study Indicator	<p>Students enrolled in or completing courses with independent study indicators of "Y" (yes) will be considered participants in independent study.</p>

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3.2 Educational Options Schools and Programs, Continued

What reports must LEAs certify and when?

LEAs are required to certify the following report related to *educational options* data:

Submission	Census Day	Official Submission Window***	Report #	Name of Report
EOY* 2	None**	Mid-May – Mid-July	5.1	Program Participants – Count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report shows counts of participants in California Partnership Academies, Opportunity programs, and Pregnant or Parenting programs.

***EOY** = End of Year.

The **EOY submissions do not have a Census Day; data collected reflects activity throughout the reporting year.

***Followed by an amendment window.

What detailed data will LEAs have to help them certify the reports?

LEAs have access to the following supporting reports that provide the detailed data that make up the certification reports:

Report #	Name of Report
5.3	Program Participants – Student List
3.16	Educational Options Course Completion – Student Count

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3.2 Educational Options Schools and Programs, Continued

How were these data previously collected?

Through the 2008-09 school year, data on educational options schools and programs were collected in aggregate form on the CBEDS School Information Form (SIF), section D, which looked like this:

D. Educational Options

All schools must complete this section if any type of educational option is offered to their students. Students should be counted in each category that applies.

Types of Educational Options	Number of Participating Students	
	K-8	9-12
Alternative Schools and Programs of Choice		
AVID		
California Partnership Academies		
Independent Study (not adult education students)		
International Baccalaureate Programs		
Magnet Schools or Programs		
Opportunity		
Pregnant/Parenting		
Smaller Learning Communities		
Specialized Secondary Programs		
Thematic Schools and Programs		
Other		
Total (unduplicated)		

For details regarding how the data in each of these educational options are now being collected, refer to the appendix in this guide entitled *Transition from Previous Methods of Data Collections to CALPADS* (see the *SIF* section within that appendix).