

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

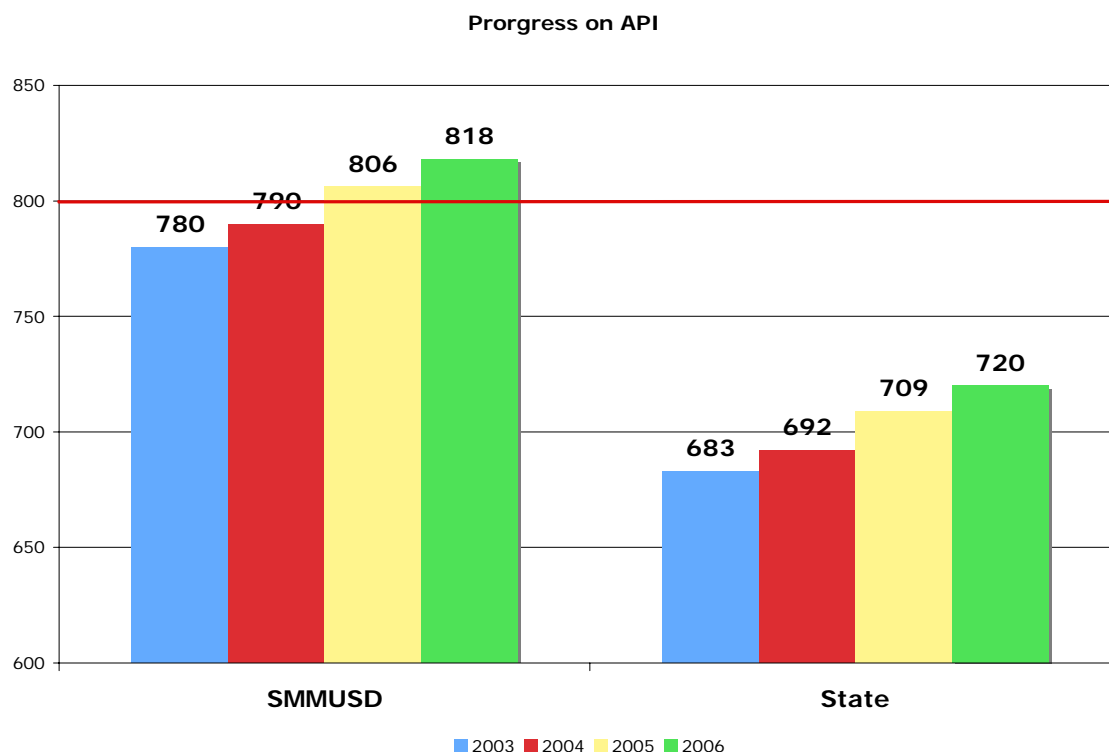
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Santa Monica-Malibu Base API and Growth Targets

The California Department of Education today released the 2006 Base Academic Performance Index (API) results, growth targets and school rankings for the school districts across the state including Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The state has made a number of changes to the calculation of the 2006 Base API as well as setting more challenging growth targets for 2007.

Santa Monica-Malibu continues to make significant gains in academic achievement as demonstrated by an impressive 10-point gain in its Growth API from 2005 to 2006. The district's current Growth API of 818 exceeds the state's high water mark of 800, an indication of the high caliber of instructional programs offered within the district and the strong support of the district teachers, administrators, staff, parents and the community.



API calculations are adjusted each year to incorporate additional elements of the tests (such as the new 8th grade science tests) and/or to adjust the weight of certain elements of the tests. This results in a new "Base" from which growth targets are set. Due to the adjustment in calculations we see slight differences from the Growth APIs released earlier this year. Santa Monica-Malibu's new Base API released just today, for example, is one point shy of our Growth API. Because of the changes in calculations, Base APIs cannot be used to compare from year to year. They are used, however, to set the growth targets for this spring's round of achievement tests.

The state has set more rigorous growth targets beginning with the 2006 Base API. Targets have been ramped up to a minimum of 5 points, for both the school as a whole and for numerically significant

subgroups of students. Schools and subgroups must continue to demonstrate growth until they reach the state goal of 800.

Along with the Base API results, the state released statewide and similar schools' rankings for each of the district's school sites. School API rankings allow parents and community members to compare progress at an individual school to statewide progress as well as to schools with similar characteristics.

Schools are ranked academically on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest). All of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District schools rank in the upper half of the state, with six sites --Franklin, Point Dume, Roosevelt, Webster, Lincoln and Malibu – ranked at an outstanding 10 statewide. District Superintendent Dianne Talarico remarked, "This is another indicator of the outstanding quality of educational programs in our district and the strong support we receive from parents and the community each day. Each of our campuses, continues to strive to improve instructional practices in order assure that every student by name becomes proficient in California's rigorous content standards."

Similar school rankings compare schools to 100 similar campuses across the state, using demographic data such as school size, mean parent education level, and percentage of English learners. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District continues to see some fluctuation in Similar School rankings as additional demographic data elements are added into the calculations and district efforts increase to accurately collect those demographic data.

	2006 Base API	Statewide Rank	Similar Schools Rank	2006-07 Growth Target
Cabrillo	854	9	5	*
Edison	781	6	7	5
Franklin	925	10	7	*
Grant	867	9	7	*
McKinley	862	9	10	*
Muir	782	6	7	5
Point Dume	924	10	7	*
Rogers	771	6	7	5
Roosevelt	915	10	8	*
SMASH	**	**	**	**
Webster	914	10	5	*
Adams MS	754	7	5	5
Lincoln MS	876	10	9	*
Malibu HS	830	10	5	*
Santa Monica HS	770	8	7	5
Olympic HS	553	***	***	***

*Once schools reach an API of 800, they do not receive growth targets from the state

**SMASH did not receive an API, due to limited participation in STAR testing

***Olympic High School uses an alternative accountability system, and therefore does not receive rankings or growth targets from the state