

DRLN Sustainability Phase: Summary Brief

INTRODUCTION

In January 2023, the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) launched the Data Research Learning Network (DRLN) to support districts and counties in transforming their data and assessment practices, programs and policies. In [Phase 1 \(Planning\)](#), seven select school districts and county offices of education conducted data dives to identify problems of practice and develop innovation ideas that turned into action plans with aligned strategies to improve measurable outcomes.



In 2023-24, the DRLN welcomed three new local educational agencies (LEAs) as it entered [Phase 2 \(Implementation\)](#) bringing the total to six school districts and four county offices of education. The Implementation Phase focused on supporting LEAs in piloting and refining their innovation ideas through continuous progress monitoring and collaborative learning.

The 2024-25 school year marked Phase 3 (Sustainability) of the DRLN. Building on the innovation and capacity developed by DRLN participants over the past two years, this phase focused on amplifying best practices, scaling successful strategies, and broadening access to shareable resources statewide. To support this effort, CCEE expanded its open-access [Resource Hub](#), curating tools, templates, and exemplars from DRLN LEAs to help other districts strengthen their data literacy, leadership, and assessment practices.

Throughout the Sustainability Phase, LEAs continued to deepen implementation across the DRLN's strands: Deeper Learning, Data Literacy & Leadership, Data Dashboards, and a newly introduced strand – Balanced Assessment Systems. The Balanced Assessment System strand emerged from the Balanced Assessment System pilot work in January 2024, where CCEE, in partnership with the

Center for Assessment, helped three districts conduct a review of their assessment systems to determine the quantity and quality of assessment by the intended user, answering critical questions about overtesting and alignment with instructional goals. As such, this strand focused on assessing the coherence, comprehensiveness, and continuity of assessment systems for instructionally useful assessments, aligned with the LEA's vision of teaching and learning.



STATE-LEVEL AMPLIFICATION

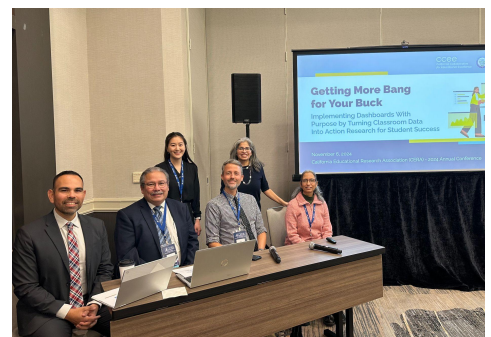
As part of the DRLN's Sustainability Phase, CCEE and DRLN LEAs prioritized statewide amplification to extend the network's learning and innovations across the state. In the 2024-25 school year, the DRLN delivered a total of 10 presentations across four major conferences:

- [National Council on Measurement in Education \(NCME\) Conference](#) – September 19-20, 2024
- [California Assessment Conference \(CAC\)](#) – October 15-17, 2024
- [California Educational Research Association \(CERA\) Conference](#) – November 6-8, 2024
- [CSBA's Annual Education Conference](#) – December 5-7, 2024

These presentations featured the work of six DRLN LEAs, highlighting how districts and county offices of education applied data-driven strategies to strengthen teaching and learning, assessment systems, and leadership practices. Topics included:

- Building balanced and coherent local assessment systems
- Leveraging formative assessment practices to drive instructional change
- Advancing data literacy across organizational levels
- Using data dashboards to monitor and support student progress in real time

Building on this momentum, CCEE was invited by the Center for Assessment—one of our co-presenters at the NCME Conference—to serve as a panelist at the [2025 Reidy Interactive Learning Series \(RILS\)](#), a national convening focused on improving educational assessment and accountability.



Pictures of our DRLN partners and CCEE staff presenting at various conferences to share lessons learned, tools, and strategies from their DRLN projects.

EXPANDING THE DRLN'S IMPACT

The 2024–25 school year not only marked the culmination of the DRLN's core activities, but the launch of new pathways for ongoing impact across California's education system. Two major initiatives emerged directly from the DRLN.

Data Literacy & Leadership Academy (DLA)

Building on the foundational work of the DRLN strands—Data Literacy, Data Leadership, Data Dashboards, and Balanced Assessment Systems—the DLA launched in Fall 2024. DRLN LEA leaders served as faculty and fellows, bringing their on-the-ground expertise to a broader audience of TK-12 education professionals.



Additionally, the Data Academy courses were designed to reflect and extend the DRLN focus areas. The Data Literacy course aligned closely with the DRLN's Data Literacy & Leadership and Data Dashboard strands, developing participants' foundational understanding of the role of data in advancing equity and strengthening their ability to identify, apply, analyze, and communicate data insights effectively. The Data Leadership course further advanced the principles from the DRLN's Data Literacy & Leadership strand, emphasizing how to foster a culture of continuous improvement at the system level. It also incorporated lessons from the Balanced Assessment System strand to deepen participants' capacity to strategically utilize formative and summative assessments to drive instructional improvement.

Data Literacy & Leadership Toolkit

Building on insights from the DRLN, CCEE partnered with San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS), San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), and Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) — members of the statewide Data Visualization COE Network — to expand access to high-quality data tools and resources for LEAs across the state. Throughout the year, CCEE, SBCSS, SDCOE, and RCOE met regularly to discuss how to strengthen statewide data leadership by helping districts feel more confident in analyzing and acting on data, increase technical data literacy among data technicians, and curate tools that could support LEAs in leveraging data for continuous improvement in educational contexts.



Together, CCEE and these three county offices of education (COEs) developed the [Data Literacy & Leadership Toolkit](#), a publicly accessible resource hub offering curated tools to support LEAs across the state. These resources are organized into three categories:



**Data Visualization
Tools**



Analytical Tools



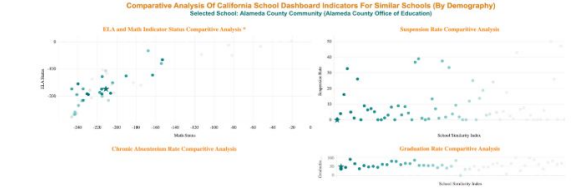
**Communications/
Storytelling**

Data Literacy & Leadership Toolkit (continued)

The initial set of resource and tools includes contributions shared by various county offices of education (COEs) at the Data Viz COE Network meetings. To continue expanding the Resource Hub, LEAs are encouraged to submit additional resources through an open submission form available on the Google Site. By leveraging collective expertise and collaboration, the [Data Literacy & Leadership Toolkit](#) supports the broader goal of building a pipeline of confident, data-proficient educators and leaders in California.

Data Literacy & Leadership Resource Hub

-- Analytical Tools --



2024 California Similar Schools Analytics Dashboard (Tableau)

Analytics dashboard that allows school/district leaders to identify CA schools that have similar demographics and meet chosen criteria and visualize CA Dashboard performance of these "similar schools"

Source: Alameda COE (Lead: [Scott Figgins](#) & [Priyanka Aggarwal](#))



Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (Tableau)

This dashboard highlights student groups and schools meeting requirements for the needs assessment as part of the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant. This report reflects STATUS only for these measures. Note that in limited cases where no CA School Dashboard absenteeism data was available, DataQuest absenteeism data was substituted instead.

Source: Riverside COE (Lead: [Nick Chitwood](#))

Those who contributed to the [Data Literacy & Leadership Toolkit](#) include:

