Business Understanding

This dataset contains information from schools within the California Department of Education. It specifically addresses school progress on standardized tests in Mathematics during the 2017-2018 school year. In part, the data will be used to support Local Education Agencies (LEA) in identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement; assist in determining whether LEAs are eligible for assistance; and assist the SSPI in determining whether LEAs are eligible for more intensive state support/intervention. The school accountability system in California has 10 priorities. This dataset looks at one part of the 4th priority: Student Achievement. The dataset used in this analysis pertains specifically to its Mathematics curriculum and the progress made from 2017 school year and the 2018 school year.

From this dataset, we will look at how the state, each county, LEA, and campus increased or decreased their average distance above or below the passing standard score. This dataset also allows us to look at different programs (English Learner, Socioeconomic Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, Foster Youth, Homeless Youth) and race/ethnicities (Black/African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, White, Multiples Races/Two or More). This project will address what difference in performance progress were seen between public and charter schools and its respective population subgroups, as described above. The outcome from this will give insight to California on the performance progress in order to help lawmakers better fund schools.

* Is one subgroup out/underperforming another?
* How do districts compare performance wise? County Offices of Education? What about with subgroups?
* Charter v. Traditional schools? What about with subgroups?
* Any impacts/trends by # of kids tested?

Data is important because

* It tells you how students performed on the CAASPP (state wide) test
* It tells you what achievement/performance gaps exist - so policy can be made to address these issues

Data Understanding