

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TOM TORLAKSON, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
1430 N Street, Suite 5602
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
916-319-0800

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
TIMOTHY P. WHITE, Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210
562-951-4000

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
BRICE W. HARRIS, Chancellor
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549
916-322-4005

February 2014

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, High School Principals, College and High School Counselors and Career Center Directors, and Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers:

2014 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In the next few months, eligible students in grade eleven will have the option to participate in the Early Assessment Program (EAP) through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) statewide assessments. The EAP results will provide students, their families, and high schools with early signals about students' readiness for college-level English and mathematics courses. The EAP includes an essay that will be administered during February and March 2014.

Our offices have written a letter in electronic format addressed to grade eleven students encouraging them to complete the EAP and authorize the release of their EAP results to the California State University (CSU) and/or the California Community Colleges (CCCs). We are asking for your support to ensure that the letter is distributed to each grade eleven student and that you encourage these students to participate in the EAP during the spring administration of the CAASPP.

Students wishing to participate in the EAP may take the California Standards Tests (CSTs) for English Language Arts and Algebra II or Summative High School Math. An EAP results report will be provided to the student and their parents or guardians. Students who seek and/or intend to enroll at a CSU campus or a CCC and wish to have their scores released should fill in the "bubble" in the "EAP Readiness for College English—EAP Augmentation" and/or "EAP Readiness for College Mathematics—EAP Augmentation" section on their CST answer documents. The EAP results can be released to the CSU or a CCC only through this process. Please encourage your grade eleven students to release their EAP results. Students who choose at the time of testing not to release their EAP results but decide later to do so will be asked to provide paper copies of the results to the CSU or participating CCCs.

Students can access online college prep tools from the CSU Success Web site at <http://www.csusuccess.org>.

Description of the EAP

The EAP was developed by the CSU in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the State Board of Education and is accepted by participating CCCs as well as the CSU. Grade eleven students who are eligible to take the CST for English–Language Arts or Algebra II or Summative High School Mathematics may participate. We are pleased to report that in spring 2013, approximately 88 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the English EAP, and 84 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the mathematics EAP.

The EAP identifies a student’s need for additional preparation in these areas while still enrolled in high school. Students will have an opportunity to enroll in English and/or mathematics classes that will include additional instruction during their senior year to prepare for placement exams necessary at CSU campuses and CCCs.

Students who participate in the English EAP must complete the CST for English–Language Arts and the EAP essay. Students who are identified as Conditional in English will need to take an approved English class and earn a “C” or higher in their senior year in order to be exempt from placement testing in English upon entering the CSU. Individual CCCs will implement requirements for students to demonstrate readiness at their respective campuses. The following are approved courses at CSU campuses:

- Expository Reading and Writing
- Advanced Placement English
- International Baccalaureate English
- English courses approved for extra honors credit by the University of California (UC) (so indicated on the UC Doorways “a–g” course list with a star)

Students who participate in the mathematics EAP must complete 15 questions in addition to the specific mathematics CST they are taking. Students who are deemed “Math-Conditional” will need to take a mathematics class with a prerequisite of Algebra II and earn a “C” or higher in their senior year in order to take advantage of the mathematics exemption.

Students who, on the basis of their EAP results, demonstrate proficiency for college-level coursework are exempt from taking the CSU’s and participating CCCs’ placement tests for English and mathematics. These students move directly into college-level classes upon enrollment.

County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

Under the CAASPP statewide assessments, all schools are required to participate in the Smarter Balanced field testing. Though grade eleven students are required to participate in the field tests, we ask that you be supportive and flexible in your administration of the EAP. Please be sure that your high school principals and assistant principals, college and high school counselors and career center directors, and grade eleven English and mathematics teachers receive a copy of this letter. The CDE, in support of the administration of the EAP, will make apportionment funds available to local educational agencies for all participating students in the 2013–14 school year.

High School Principals

A copy of the electronic letter to grade eleven students is on the CSU EAP Letters Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml> for forwarding to your grade eleven English and mathematics teachers to distribute to their students. Please indicate to your school staff the importance of distributing the letter to grade eleven students before the CSTs for EAP purposes are administered on your high school campus.

College and High School Counselors and Career Center Directors

We ask for your support in ensuring that your grade eleven English and mathematics teachers receive a copy of this letter. Please encourage your English and mathematics teachers to distribute the letter to their grade eleven students before the CSTs for EAP purposes are administered on your high school campus.

Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers

A copy of the letter to grade eleven students is on the CSU EAP Letters Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml>. Please distribute the letter to grade eleven students enrolled in your English and mathematics class before the CSTs for EAP purposes are administered on your high school campus.

Additional Information

You can find information about the EAP on the CSU EAP Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/> and the CCC Chancellor's Office EAP Web page at <http://www.cccco.edu/eap>. In addition, students can find information about the EAP, their EAP results, and how to get ready for college on the EAP Web site at <http://www.collegeeap.org/>.

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If you have questions regarding the EAP, please contact Carolina Cardenas, Director, Student Academic Support Office, CSU, by phone at 562-951-4724 or by e-mail at eapmail@calstate.edu, or Mia Keeley, State EAP Coordinator, CCC Chancellor's Office, by e-mail at mkeeley@cccco.edu. You can also contact John Boivin, Education Research and Evaluation Administrator, Assessment Development and Administration Division, CDE, by phone at 916-445-8765 or by e-mail at CAASPP@cde.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the Early Assessment Program, which helps prepare California high school graduates for higher education.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education



Timothy P. White
Chancellor
The California State University



Brice W. Harris
Chancellor
California Community Colleges

TT/TW/BH:pa
Attachment

cc: District CAASPP Coordinators