



Assessment Notes...

California Department of Education
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

New CAHSEE Administration Dates Posted on the Internet

The designated administrations for July, September, and November 2003 have been cancelled. **Students scheduled to graduate in the Class of 2004 or 2005 are no longer required to take the CAHSEE and may not be tested in any future CAHSEE administrations** (see page 2 for information about the option of administering the released CAHSEE test form). New testing dates have been scheduled for grade 10 students in the Class of 2006 who will be taking the CAHSEE in February or March 2004, with a makeup in March or May 2004. A census administration for all grade 10 students is necessary to meet both CAHSEE and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements for high school. Like last year, districts are to submit an answer document for all grade 10 students at their census administration. More details about the 2004 CAHSEE administration will be provided this fall.

New designated testing dates and scheduling guidelines are now available on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee/updates/dates072403.pdf>.

Changes to the CAHSEE Content and Test Blueprints

The State Board of Education (SBE) directed the CDE to reduce the CAHSEE testing time from three to two days. Reducing the number of testing days required a re-examination of the test blueprints. Consequently, the SBE has approved changes to the mathematics and English-language arts (ELA) CAHSEE blueprints.

Changes to the blueprints are summarized here. The revised blueprints are available under CAHSEE Administrative Documents at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee/admin/admin.html>.

ELA Blueprint Changes

The ELA portion of the CAHSEE will have:

- Only one writing task
- Ten fewer multiple-choice, scored questions
- Five fewer multiple-choice, field-test questions

In the original ELA blueprint, there were two writing tasks that counted for 30 percent of the total score. Writing counted for 50 percent of the ELA score, which included the writing tasks; and reading counted for 50 percent. The new ELA blueprint maintains a 50/50 emphasis on reading and writing as originally proposed by the High School Exit Examination Standards Panel. The new ELA test will have 79 multiple choice questions (72 will be scored and an additional 7 will be field-tested for use on future test forms) and one writing task. The reading multiple-choice questions will be worth 45 points, writing multiple-choice questions 27 points, and writing task 18 points (for a total of 45 points for writing). Therefore, the ELA test will continue to be worth 90 raw score points.

Overall, 13 multiple-choice questions for reading were deleted from the blueprint, and three multiple-choice questions for writing were added. A brief summary of the changes to the ELA blueprint follows:

- Word Analysis was reduced from 10 to 7 questions.
- Reading Comprehension was reduced from 24 to 18 questions. Reading Comprehension Standards 2.2 (prepare a bibliography...) and 2.3 (generate relevant questions...) were eliminated.

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- Literary Response was reduced from 24 to 20 questions.
- Writing Strategies was increased from 11 to 12 questions. Writing strategy standards 1.3 (use clear research questions...) and 1.6 (integrate quotations and citations into a written text...) were eliminated.
- Writing Applications was reduced from two writing tasks to one.
- Written Conventions was increased from 13 to 15 questions. The Written Conventions Standard 1.5 (reflect appropriate manuscript requirements...) was eliminated.

Mathematics Blueprint Changes

The length of the mathematics portion of the CAHSEE will not change. There will continue to be 92 multiple-choice questions during each administration (80 will be scored, and an additional 12 will be field tested for use on future test forms). The following changes have been made to the mathematics blueprint:

- The number of test questions for Grade 6 Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability (SDAP) Standard 1.1 (assesses the mean, median and mode of data sets) has been increased from 1 to 3.
- Test questions that assess knowledge of stem-and-leaf plot or box-and-whisker plot displays for the Grade 7 SDAP Standard 1.1 have been eliminated. This standard will be tested by using more common data displays, such as bar charts or line graphs.
- The Grade 7 SDAP Standard 1.3 (assesses the minimum, the lower quartile, the median, the upper quartile, and the maximum of a data set) was eliminated.
- The number of test questions for Grade 7 Mathematical Reasoning (MR) Standard 2.1 (use estimation to verify the reasonableness of results) has been increased from 1 to 2.
- The Grade 7 MR Standard 3.1 (evaluate the reasonableness of the solution in the context of the original situation) was eliminated.

Released CAHSEE Test Form

A recent letter to county and district superintendents (July 16, 2003) regarding the postponement of the CAHSEE requirement announced the release of a test form that may be administered to students in the Class of 2004 or 2005 who want to receive the Certificate of Accomplishment. This test, which will be released in October 2003, must be administered and scored at the local level. The CDE has received numerous calls from district testing coordinators about the use of the released test form. As stated in the July letter, "School districts may not use the released CAHSEE as a local graduation requirement for the Class of 2004 or 2005."

The CDE owns the CAHSEE and is authorizing the released test form only to be used to assess students in the Class of 2004 or 2005 who want to receive the CAHSEE Certificate of Accomplishment. The CDE will be putting the released test form on the ETS secure web site with testing and scoring guidelines that CAHSEE testing directors must agree to follow if they administer the test.

Answers to questions district testing coordinators have asked include:

- **Can districts pay to have eleventh and twelfth graders take the CAHSEE during one of the next administrations (February, March, or May of 2004)?**
No. The Educational Testing Service (ETS) contract with CDE does not include provisions for doing any additional scoring of different versions of the test (such as the released CAHSEE form).
- **Why can't districts use the released test form as a local graduation requirement?**
The SBE, in its decision to delay the consequences to the Class of 2006, stated that the time is not right for the CAHSEE to be used as a graduation requirement. The CAHSEE will be revised for next spring, according to the changed SBE-approved blueprints.
- **What does the law require of districts regarding local proficiency requirements?**
Districts are not required to provide a proficiency exam during the CAHSEE postponement period. Article 2.5, beginning with *Education Code* Section 51215, regarding student progress, was repealed in 1999 when Senate Bill 2 (Ch. 1, Statutes of 1999) was passed. This article required

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local governing boards to adopt standards of proficiency in basic skills in reading comprehension, writing, and computational skills. Differential standards and assessment procedures also were included in this article. Students were required to pass an assessment of these proficiencies to graduate.

Senate Bill 2 established the High School Exit Examination to replace local proficiency exams and required all students to pass the High School Exit Examination to receive a high school diploma, beginning with the Class of 2004. Senate Bill 2 also added *Education Code* Section 60850(h) that states, “Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a school district from requiring pupils to pass additional exit examinations approved by the governing board of the school district as a condition for graduation.”

CAHSEE Demographic Change Windows for Release of 2002–03 Results

The first Internet posting of CAHSEE 2002–03 annual results will be on or about October 10, 2003. Districts will be able to correct their CAHSEE data files for 2002–2003 test administrations before this posting. The ETS demographic change window is open from August 20 through August 29, 2003 (3:00 p.m. PST). Corrections are to be made on the ETS Web site at <http://cahsee.ets.org>. Results are being displayed on a protected server on DataQuest at the same time. CAHSEE testing directors were sent a password to view their 2002–03 results on DataQuest.

The change window will be closed after August 29 to allow ETS time to prepare the data file that will be submitted to the CDE for posting the 2002–2003 CAHSEE results on DataQuest. At the same time, a detail file will be provided to the CDE’s Policy and Evaluation Division for its calculations for NCLB’s Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and the Academic Performance Index (API).

Once the CAHSEE results are posted on DataQuest, districts will have a final opportunity to review and make corrections. The second and final demographic change window will be open from October 11 through October 20. The final file submitted to CDE by ETS will be used to update the CAHSEE annual results on DataQuest, and a detail file will be provided to the CDE’s Policy and Evaluation Division for its final calculations for AYP and API.

For questions about correcting the data online, district CAHSEE testing directors should contact ETS CAHSEE Support at: 1-800-241-5687 (phone) or at cahsee-support@ets.org (e-mail).

Parent Brochure (Spanish Version)

The CDE is making available a Spanish version of the brochure entitled, “Attention Parents/Guardians: Important Announcement about the CAHSEE,” (dated July 10, 2003). The Spanish version has been e-mailed to all district CAHSEE testing directors and posted under CAHSEE Resources in Spanish at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee/versions/spanish/spanish.html>.

How to Find Out More...

For more information about the California High School Exit Examination, contact the CAHSEE Office at 916-445-9449 (phone), 916-319-0969 (fax), or CAHSEE@cde.ca.gov (e-mail).

This publication is designed to assist county, district, and school personnel who are responsible for state testing programs. This publication is produced by:

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