



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

From the Standards and Assessment Division

February 28, 2003

Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR)

Governor's Scholars Awards

2002 Requirements. Harcourt Educational Measurement shipped the 2002 Governor's Scholars Program materials to district superintendents between January 8 and January 17. District STAR coordinators should have delivered the school packets to schools by February 7. The qualifying score notices and the governor's congratulatory letter should have been distributed to students by this time. It is essential that eligible students immediately claim their awards. Schools and districts are receiving a best practices document with suggestions for ensuring that all schools and districts have the highest claim rate possible. Eligible students should claim their awards even if they are unsure of their post-secondary education plans. The Web site address for the Governor's Scholars Program has been changed to <www.cagovernorsscholars.org>.

2003 Requirements. To be eligible for 2003 Governor's Scholars awards, students in grade 9–11 must have scores for the following tests:

- CST English Language Arts
- CST Mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- CAT/6 Reading and Language Arts
- CAT/6 Mathematics

A combined CST English Language Arts and Mathematics score will be used to identify students to receive the award.

Permission to Copy STAR Manuals for Training

California public schools and school districts may photocopy and reproduce any part of the 2003 California Standardized Testing and Reporting District Coordinator Manual and/or Site Coordinator Manual to train STAR coordinators and teachers/administrators who are to administer the 2003 California Standards Tests and the California Achievement

Tests, Sixth Edition Survey. No other person or agency is authorized to reproduce or distribute any part of these publications in any form or by any means or to store the information in any database or retrieval system.

Note: Correction for Coding Student ID on STAR Test Booklets and Answer Documents — Please right justify the number when hand-gridding student ID numbers. The test booklets and answer documents incorrectly say to left justify this entry.

Performance Standards (Levels) for Integrated Standards Tests

The State Board of Education (SBE) at its March meeting will consider adoption of approved performance standards (levels) for reporting 2003 results of the California Integrated Science Standards Tests. The SBE had approved recommendations for the performance levels in January 2003, pending two regional public hearings and a third hearing at the February SBE meeting.

New STAR Report for Teachers To Be Ready for 2003

A new STAR Report for Teachers is being added to the 2003 reporting package. This report is designed to effectively communicate the results of the STAR standards tests in a meaningful way and to make data more accessible to teachers for curriculum and instructional planning. The reports will feature unique characteristics including easy to understand and concise performance data at the classroom level. This will

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allow teachers to compare the performance of their students to school, district, and state performance results.

The report layout will provide data and information in five sections:

- How last years students performed
- Overview of test components
- Focus on a selected test component
- How did each group of students perform
- What additional resources are available

The STAR contractor, Educational Testing Services (ETS), will be communicating with district superintendents this spring with more information, sample reports, and distribution plans.

2003 STAR Answer Document Posted

The sample 2003 STAR answer document is posted under STAR Administration: Information, Documents and Forms at <www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star>. The sample answer document includes coding that may be required for any grade level and indicates coding that will appear only on specific grade-level answer documents.

STAR Testing Dates for Spring 2004

As specified in the STAR regulations, all multiple-choice testing must be completed within a 21-day window that is comprised of 10 instructional days before and 10 instructional days after the day on which each school, track, or program completes 85 percent of the instructional days within the school year.

The California Writing Standards Tests for grades 4 and 7 will be administered:

- Tuesday, March 16, 2004 with make-up on Wednesday, March 17 for all schools, tracks, and programs in session on these dates.
- Tuesday, May 11, 2004 with make-up on Wednesday, May 12 for all schools, tracks, and programs not in session during March.

Golden State Examination (GSE)

Anticipated Budget Cuts to Limit 2003 Administration

Due to the anticipated reduction in state funding for GSE, the only GSEs to be administered in spring 2003 will be in

Reading/Writing and High School Mathematics. These are the two examinations to be administered as augmentations to the California Standards Tests. It is not anticipated that the GSE in first-year algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, second-year coordinated science, economics, government/civics, U.S. history, and second-year Spanish language will be administered this spring.

Districts/schools that plan to register for pre-ID service are advised to do so only for the GSE in Reading/Writing and the GSE in High School Mathematics. If districts have already submitted their pre-ID files, the testing contractor, NCS Pearson, will take the steps necessary to ensure they are charged only for files submitted for the reading/writing and high school mathematics tests.

Questions regarding operational aspects of the spring 2003 administration should be directed to NCS Pearson at (800) 627-7990 extension 805 or via e-mail at <GSECustomerService@pearson.com>.

CST/GSE Linkage for Spring 2003

For spring 2003, Algebra II and High School Summative Math CSTs will be linked with the GSE for High School Mathematics. Students in grades 9 through 11 who are taking either the Algebra II or High School Summative Math CST will indicate on their answer documents if they intend to take the GSE for High School Mathematics in May. A GSE score only will be produced for students who take either the Algebra II or High School Summative Math CST and the GSE for High School Mathematics.

For spring 2003, the grade 11 California English-Language Arts Standards Test (CST/ELA) will be linked to the GSE for Reading/Writing. Students are required to take both the reading and writing components of the GSE. This examination will include two essays. Students in grade 11 will indicate if they intend to take the GSE for Reading/Writing. Both the Grade 11 CST ELA and the GSE for Reading/Writing will be required to produce a GSE score.

Students in grade 12 may not take the GSE for Reading/Writing or the GSE for High School Mathematics because they cannot take the CSTs required to produce a GSE score.

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California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

CELDT Communications Assistance Packet for Districts/Schools

The CELDT assistance materials are designed to provide districts and schools with information to:

- Report 2002 CELDT results
- Communicate with parents/guardians and the media
- Aid districts in developing and implementing their local reclassification process based on the Reclassification Guidelines

The assistance packet is being distributed to all district CELDT coordinators and county offices of education for training purposes and dissemination to schools. The packet is also available at <www.cde.ca.gov/statetests>.

SBE Approves Amendments to Title 5 Regulations

The State Board of Education (SBE) adopted proposed amendments to the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, California English Language Development Test (CELDT) at the February 2003 meeting. The amendments to the regulations are posted at <www.cde.ca.gov/statetests>.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

In October 2002, the California Department of Education (CDE) awarded a contract to the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) to develop, produce, and distribute student study guides. These guides for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics are being developed and field-tested with leaders from the California Mathematics Project, the California Reading and Literature Project, the California Writing Project, and the Mathematics Professional Development Institutes. Teachers from these groups and leaders from the California County Superintendent Educational Service Association are being introduced to the student study guide prior to publication so that they will be ready to assist staff, students, and parents when copies arrive in districts.

The new guides are scheduled for distribution in mid-May so they can be given to students prior to the close of the traditional school year and be available for use in summer

intervention programs. Funds are available to provide one guide to each current tenth grader for the portion(s) of the CAHSEE not passed this spring (i.e., March or May). The distribution contractor, NCS Pearson, will be working with district CAHSEE testing coordinators to determine the number of copies needed. Though the law specifically states that the guides are intended for tenth graders, UCOP will print as many as the budget allows and distribute them across the districts.

General Education Diploma (GED)

In January 2004, the GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education will be releasing a new generation of Spanish-language GED Tests. To establish standards and norms for the test, high schools throughout California are being asked by the GED Testing Service to participate in the GEDTS 2003 Spanish-Language Study. Schools that participate will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and a summary report on how their students performed on the GSE Tests.

Participation requires approximately 3.5 hours of testing time with a sample of at least 20 seniors who (1) are expected to graduate by September 2003, (2) *are fluent in Spanish and English*, and (3) do not require accommodations, such as a large-print or audiocassette version of the test. The test administration can be scheduled for any date(s) between March 3, and May 16, 2003. Content areas tested will include language arts, reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science.

Questions regarding the study should be directed to Adora Beard, project manager at the GED Testing Service, at 800-497-1772 or at <adora_beard@ace.nche.edu> (e-mail).

For More Information...

For more information about any of the state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 445-9441 (phone), at (916) 319-0968 (fax), at <STAR@cde.ca.gov> (e-mail), or at <www.cde.ca.gov> (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the appropriate person.