

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
CHARLES B. REED, Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210
562-951-4000

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

JACK SCOTT, Chancellor
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549
916-322-4005

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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:

2011 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In the next few months, California public school students will participate in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Embedded in the STAR Program for grade eleven students is the Early Assessment Program (EAP). The EAP essay will be administered in March 2011. Our offices have written a letter addressed to grade eleven students encouraging them to complete the EAP and to authorize the release of their EAP results to California State University (CSU) and/or California Community Colleges (CCC). We are asking for your support to ensure that this 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 California Standards Tests (CSTs).

Developed in collaboration with the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the CSU, and accepted by participating CCCs, the EAP is a voluntary program designed to provide students, their families, and high schools with early signals about students' readiness for college-level English and mathematics. We are pleased to report that in spring 2010, approximately 84 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in English and 77 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in mathematics. Grade eleven students who are eligible to take the English or the Algebra II or Summative High School Mathematics CST may participate in the EAP.

The EAP identifies a student's need for additional preparation in these areas while still enrolled in high school. Students will then have the 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 CSUs and CCCs. Students deemed Math-Conditional will need to take a math class with a pre-requisite of Algebra II and earn a "c" or better in the senior year in order to keep the math exemption. Students can also access online college prep tools from the CSU English Success Web site at <http://www.csuenglishsuccess.org/> and the CSU Math Success Web site at <http://www.csumathsuccess.org/>. Students deemed to be College-Ready based on their

EAP results are exempt from taking CSU and participating CCC placement tests in English and mathematics and move directly into college-level classes upon enrollment.

Students who participate in the EAP must complete the specified CSTs and an additional 15 questions on the English and mathematics portions of the CSTs. Students are also required to complete an essay for the English portion of the EAP.

The EAP results are incorporated into the STAR Student Report. Students who seek or intend to enroll in a CSU or CCC and wish to have their scores released should fill in the “bubble” in the EAP Readiness for College English and Mathematics – EAP Augmentation sections on their STAR answer sheets. The EAP results can only be released to the CSU or CCC through this process. Please encourage your grade eleven students to release their EAP results. Students who choose not to release their EAP results but later decide that they would like the CSU and/or community colleges to receive their English and mathematics EAP results will be asked to provide paper copies of the results to CSU or participating CCC themselves.

County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

We ask for your support in ensuring 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.

High School Principals

Copies of the letter to grade eleven students are included with this letter for forwarding to your grade eleven English and mathematics teachers to distribute to their grade eleven students. Please indicate to your school staff the importance of distributing the letter to grade eleven students at least two weeks before the CSTs 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 at least two weeks before the CSTs are administered on your high school campus.

Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers

Copies of the letter to grade eleven students are included with this letter to high school principals. Once you receive the copies of the letter to grade eleven students, please distribute them to grade eleven students enrolled in your English and mathematics class at least two weeks before the CSTs 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/>. Additionally, 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/> (Outside Source).

If you have any questions regarding the EAP, please contact Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director, Student Academic Support Office, California State University, by phone at 562-951-4724 or by e-mail at eapmail@calstate.edu or contact Kimberly Cortijo, State EAP Coordinator, CCC Chancellor's Office, by e-mail at kcortijo@cccco.edu.

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

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

Charles B. Reed
Chancellor
The California State University

Jack Scott
Chancellor
California Community Colleges

TT/CBR/JS:ch
Enclosure

cc: District Standardized Testing and Reporting Coordinators