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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 Teachers:

CHANGE IN 2012 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Last February we communicated with you about the Early Assessment Program (EAP) and described how it is embedded in the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program for grade eleven students. Developed in collaboration with the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the California State University (CSU) and accepted by participating California Community Colleges (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 courses. Students who demonstrate proficiency for college-level coursework, 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. A copy of the February letter is on the CSU EAP Letters Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml>.

Today we are writing to inform you of a change in the way results will be reported for participating students in English. Beginning with the 2012 administration of the EAP, students will receive one of four results in English:

- Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level English courses
- **Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level English courses – Conditional**
- Not yet demonstrating readiness for CSU or participating CCC college-level English courses
- Incomplete

The new Conditional status for English is similar to the Conditional status for mathematics. 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. The approved courses are the following:

- Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC)
- 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 identified as Conditional in English who do not enroll in one of the approved courses and who do not earn a grade of “C” or higher in an approved course will be required to take the English Placement Test at the CSU or the appropriate placement test at a participating CCC upon admission.

In order for the ERWC to be considered an approved course, it must be officially adopted and offered as a yearlong course in the senior year. The course must be approved by the CSU and appear on the “a-g” course list on the UC Doorways Web site as satisfying the “b” requirement for the specific high school. In addition, instructors must be certified through the ERWC professional development program. For more information on the ERWC, please visit the CSU ERWC Web page at www.calstate.edu/eap/englishcourse/. Teachers may register for an ERWC professional development workshop on this Web page as well. Complete information on the process for adopting the ERWC is available in the password-protected ERWC Online Community under Teaching Resources. All teachers who have attended ERWC professional development have access to this Web site.

If you have questions regarding the reporting of results for the EAP, please contact Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director, Student Academic Support, CSU, by phone at 562-951-4724 or by e-mail at eapmail@calstate.edu. If you have questions regarding the courses approved to satisfy the Conditional status in English, please contact Zulmara Cline, Associate Director, Teacher Education and Public School Programs, CSU, by phone at 562-951-4713 or by e-mail at zcline@calstate.edu.

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

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
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California Department of Education

Charles B. Reed
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The California State University

Jack Scott
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California Community Colleges

TT/CBR/JS:pa
Enclosure

cc: District Standardized Testing and Reporting Coordinators