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March 3, 2015

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 and Mathematics Teachers:

2015 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In the next few months, California's new statewide system for assessing public school student achievement in grades three through eight and eleven will be fully implemented. The new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System will have a direct impact on the California State University's (CSU) Early Assessment Program (EAP). Beginning in spring 2015, the CSU will use CAASPP English language arts/literacy and mathematics performance level outcomes to provide grade eleven students, their families, and their high schools early signals about students' readiness for college-level coursework.

Our offices have written a letter addressed to grade eleven students encouraging them to do their best on the new CAASPP exams and to authorize the release of their CAASPP examination results, for EAP purposes, to the CSU and/or the California Community Colleges (CCC). We are asking for your support to ensure that the letter is distributed to each grade eleven student.

Students who intend to enroll at a CSU or a CCC are encouraged to release their results by selecting the "bubble" at the end of the CAASPP exam. The CAASPP results can be released to the CSU or CCC only through this process. Students who choose at the time of testing not to release their results, but decide later to do so, will be required to provide a copy of their CAASPP Student Score Report to the specific CSU campus or participating CCC.

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 CCC campuses as well as the CSU. All grade eleven students who participate in the English and mathematics CAASPP examination will achieve a performance level that will be used for the EAP.

Achievement Levels

The Achievement levels identify a student's ability to perform college-level work in these subject areas and will provide valuable information on skills that can be developed while still enrolled in high school.

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Achievement Level 4

Students who are identified at Achievement Level 4 in English or mathematics will be classified as ready for college-level coursework and will be exempt from taking the CSU English Placement Test (EPT) or Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) exam. These students will be able to register in college degree-bearing courses upon entering the CSU or participating CCC.

Achievement Level 3

Students who are identified at Achievement Level 3 in English or mathematics will be classified as Conditionally Ready and will be encouraged to take an approved English or mathematics class in the senior year and earn a grade of “C” or higher to be exempt from placement testing after admission to the CSU. Students who successfully fulfill the condition will also be able to enroll in college degree-bearing courses. Individual CCC campuses may implement requirements for students to demonstrate readiness. The following are approved senior-year courses for the CSU:

English

- Expository Reading and Writing Course
- Advanced Placement English
- International Baccalaureate English
- English courses approved for extra honors credit by the University of California (so indicated on the University of California Course Management Portal—formerly known as UC Doorways)

Mathematics

- Mathematics courses that have a pre-requisite of Algebra II
- Mathematics courses that have a pre-requisite of Integrated Math III
- Mathematics courses that have been approved by the CSU Entry Level Math Development Committee

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 the student letter. Please encourage the teachers to distribute the letter to their grade eleven students at least two weeks before the CAASPP exams are administered on your high school campus.

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Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers

A copy of the letter to grade eleven students is on the CSU EAP Letters Web page at www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml. Please distribute the letter to grade eleven students enrolled in your English and mathematics classes at least two weeks before the CAASPP exams are administered on your high school campus.

Additional Information

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

If you have questions regarding the use of CAASPP results for 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@ccco.edu. You may also contact the CDE Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Office by phone at 916-445-8765 or by e-mail at caaspp@cde.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the EAP, 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: CAASPP Local Educational Agency Coordinators