



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 17, 2012

Dear District and County Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

### **RESCHEDULED RELEASE OF THE STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING PROGRAM RESULTS**

On April 27, 2012, the California Department of Education (CDE) notified you of breaches in security for the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program when it was discovered that students posted images of test materials to social networking sites. Today, I am following up with additional essential information about the steps taken to ensure the integrity of the test results and to notify you of the impact on upcoming reporting timelines.

While most of the posted images did not contain test items or completed answer documents, the CDE takes any breaches in security very seriously. In an effort to assess and mitigate any potential impact, the CDE and the STAR testing contractor, Educational Testing Service (ETS), have worked in cooperation with you and your staff to identify breaches, reduce the exposure of test materials, and implement policies to prevent future breaches.

In order to determine the effect of the breaches on test results, ETS has conducted a variety of psychometric and content analyses. These analyses found no evidence that exposure of any test materials had a significant impact on any result. However, as a precaution, we made a decision to exclude any exposed linking items from the equating process and, also, to omit from the equating procedure any results from a school where confirmed security breaches occurred.

Completing these critical analyses will result in a delay of the reporting process by about two weeks. Consequently, your district will receive STAR Student Reports no later than August 22, 2012. The public release of the 2012 statewide STAR Results will be August 31, 2012. As a result of the rescheduling, the Accountability Progress Reporting (APR) is now scheduled to be released in early October 2012. Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change. If they are modified, we will send out an amended schedule.

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I know you will agree, it is imperative that when districts, teachers, parents and students receive their test results, we all can be assured that the integrity of the system remains intact. I would like to thank you for your efforts and cooperation in ensuring that the STAR tests remain secure and the results valid and reliable. For your convenience, attached is the tentative timeline for all upcoming assessment and accountability releases.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have questions, please contact John Boivin, Administrator, STAR Program & Assessment Transition Office, by phone at 916-319-0575 or e-mail at [jboivin@cde.ca.gov](mailto:jboivin@cde.ca.gov); Diane Hernandez, Administrator, High School and Physical Fitness Assessment Office, by phone at 916-319-0373 or e-mail at [dhernand@cde.ca.gov](mailto:dhernand@cde.ca.gov); or Jenny Singh, Administrator, Academic Accountability Unit, by phone at 916-319-0437 or e-mail at [jsingh@cde.ca.gov](mailto:jsingh@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah V.H. Sigman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deborah V.H. Sigman, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
District, School, and Innovation Branch

DS:jb  
Attachment

cc: District Assessment Coordinators  
District Accountability Coordinators  
District Data Coordinators

**Tentative CAHSEE Release Schedule**

Activity	Date
CAHSEE public release	August 22

**Tentative STAR Release Schedule**

Activity	Date
STAR public release	August 31

**Tentative Accountability Release Schedule**

Activity	Date
Accountability and new school profile reports public release	October 3