

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The district shall administer the following assessments in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program:

1. The California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science to students in grades 2-11 (Education Code 60640)

In addition, students in grade 11 may voluntarily take an augmented CST as part of the Early Assessment Program to determine their readiness for college-level work in English and/or mathematics. (Education Code 60641, 99300-99301)

2. The Standards-Based Test in Spanish (STS) to Spanish-speaking English language learners in grades 2-11 who either: (Education Code 60640)
 - a. Receive instruction in Spanish, regardless of how long they have been in the United States
 - b. Have been enrolled in a California public school for less than 12 months

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

This test shall be required in addition to the CST administered in English. (Education Code 60640)

Following the first year of enrollment in a California public school, Spanish-speaking English language learners in grades 2-11 shall continue to take the STS in addition to the CST in English, if the Superintendent or designee determines that such test results would provide useful information about students' performance.

3. The California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) for students with severe cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the CSTs even with accommodations or modifications, or the California Modified Assessment (CMA) for students who are not severely cognitively disabled, when determined appropriate by the student's individualized education program (IEP) team (Education Code 56345, 60640; 5 CCR 850; 34 CFR 200.1)

Any special education student who is an English learner may be tested with the STS in accordance with item #2 above, unless the IEP specifically exempts him/her from such testing. (Education Code 56345)

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (continued)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

Testing Period

The STAR tests, with the exception of the writing assessment, shall be administered to students during a testing window of twenty-five (25) instructional days that includes twelve (12) instructional days before and after completion of 85 percent of the instructional days of the school, track, or program. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCR 855)

The Superintendent or designee shall arrange for at least two (2) make-up days for the testing of students who were absent during the testing period. All make-up testing shall occur within five (5) instructional days of the last date that the district administered the tests, but not later than the twenty-five (25) instructional day window established above. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCR 855)

The STAR writing assessment shall be administered only on the testing day(s) and make-up day(s) specified annually by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCR 855)

Exemptions

A parent/guardian may submit to the school a written request to excuse his/her child from any or all parts of any test. District employees may discuss the STAR Program with parent/guardian and may inform him/her of the availability of exemptions under Education Code 60615. However, the district and its employees shall not solicit or encourage any written exemption request on behalf of any student or group of students. (5 CCR 852)

Testing Variations

The CSTs and STS shall be administered in accordance with the manuals or other instructions provided by the test contractor, unless a testing variation, accommodation, or modification is specifically allowed pursuant to 5 CCR 853.5. (5 CCR 853, 853.5)

All students may be provided with the following variations: (5 CCR 853.5)

1. Simplified or clarified test directions
2. Write-in test booklets (e.g., underlining, working math problems), provided that in grades 2-3 any marks other than those in response circles must be erased to ensure that the tests can be scored

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (continued)

3. As much time as needed within a single sitting to complete a test or test part

In addition, all students shall be provided with the following testing variations if such variations are regularly used in the classroom: (5 CCR 853.5)

1. Special adaptive furniture
2. Special lighting, special acoustics, or visual magnifying or audio amplification equipment
3. An individual carrel or study enclosure
4. Individual testing in a separate testing room provided that a district employee who has signed the STAR Test Security Affidavit directly supervises the student
5. Colored overlay, masks, or other means to maintain visual attention to the test or test questions
6. Manually Coded English or American Sign Language to communicate directions for test administration

Identified English learners shall be provided with the following testing variations if such variations are regularly used in the classroom or for assessment: (5 CCR 853.5)

1. Flexible setting: testing in a separate room with other English learners provided that a district employee who has signed the Test Security Affidavit directly supervises the student.
2. Flexible schedule: additional supervised breaks following each section within a test part provided that the test section is completed within a testing day. A test section is identified by a "STOP" at the end of it.
3. Translated directions: hearing the test directions printed in the test administration manual translated into their primary language. English learners shall have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions about any test directions presented orally in their primary language.
4. Glossaries: access to translation glossaries/word lists for the standards-based achievement tests in mathematics, science, and history/social science (English to

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (continued)

primary language). The translation glossaries/word lists are to include only the English words or phrases with the corresponding primary language words or phrases. The glossaries/word lists shall not include definitions or formulas.

Students with disabilities shall be permitted to take the assessments with any of the testing variations listed in 5 CCR 853.5, provided the variations are specified in their IEP or Section 504 plan. These variations may include, but are not limited to, accommodations in the presentation or setting of the test administration or in how a student is allowed to respond, and/or modifications in accordance with 5 CCR 853.5. (5 CCR 850, 853, 853.5)

District and Test Site Coordinators

Each year the Superintendent or designee shall designate a district coordinator who shall serve as the district representative and liaison with the California Department of Education (CDE) for all matters relating to the STAR Program. The Superintendent or designee also shall designate a coordinator at each test site. (5 CCR 857-858)

In addition to the duties prescribed in 5 CCR 857-858, the district coordinator shall establish guidelines to help ensure that the test contractor is provided complete student information, as specified in 5 CCR 861 and 870, for purposes of the Academic Performance Index.

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

After receiving summary reports and files from the test contractor, the district coordinator shall review the files and reports for completeness and accuracy and shall notify the test contractor and the CDE of any errors, discrepancies, or incomplete information. (5 CCR 857)

Report of Test Results

Within twenty (20) working days of receiving the student report from the test contractor, the Superintendent or designee shall forward the student report to the student's parent/guardian. If these reports are received from the contractor after the last day of instruction in the school year, each student's results shall be mailed to his/her parent/guardian. (Education Code 60641; 5 CCR 863)

The report shall include a clear explanation of the purpose of the test, the student's score, and its intended use by the district. (Education Code 60641)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (continued)

An individual student's scores shall also be reported to his/her school and teacher(s) and shall be included in his/her student record. (Education Code 60641)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

The Superintendent or designee shall present districtwide, school-level, and grade-level results to the Governing Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Board shall not receive individual student's scores or the relative position of any individual student. (Education Code 60641)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

Individual test results shall not be released without the written consent of the adult student or the minor student's parent/guardian to any person other than the following: (Education Code 60607, 60641)

1. The student's parent/guardian
2. A teacher, counselor, or administrator directly involved with the student
3. A postsecondary educational institution for the purposes of credit, placement, or admission