



SHEILA JORDAN, SUPERINTENDENT
ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DIVISION

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAMS
STATE AND FEDERAL CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS

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Required Testing in School Year 2011-12

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In the 2011/12 school year your child will participate in a number of important tests to help teachers give the best possible instruction according to your child's needs. During the first week of enrollment, each student takes computerized math and reading placement tests called Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP tests. These tests help teachers identify specific areas where students may need extra help. Later in the school year, each student takes follow-up MAP tests to see how he or she is doing. The MAP tests automatically adapt to each student's level of learning, so every student can demonstrate knowledge. This testing is required by the federal No Child Left Behind law, and it is important for many other reasons, including predicting areas of strength and weakness on the California High School Exit Exam.

In addition to the computerized MAP tests, students will participate in other traditional assessments during the year to help guide and measure learning. These tests include:

- The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in mathematics and English Language Arts is for all students in grade 10 and students in grades 11 and 12 who have not yet passed. Students with special needs and IEP or 504 plans must take the census CAHSEE in the spring of tenth grade, but they are not required to pass the test in order to receive a diploma.
- The California English Language Development Test (CELDT) for students whose parents' language or home language is not English and who have not yet demonstrated mastery of academic English.
- The California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science/History for students in grades 2 – 11.
- The California Youth Fitness Tests for students in grades 7 and 9.

More information about test dates is printed on the reverse side of this letter. Please contact teachers or the school principal with any questions about testing at your child's school.

Encouraging your child to have a positive attitude about school testing is an important contribution you can make. All our teachers try to make required testing meaningful and help students understand what they need to do to succeed in school and out of school. Please help by ensuring that your child knows when testing will occur and comes to school on those days especially well-rested and ready to demonstrate all he or she has learned.

Sincerely,

Greta Ann Nash, Ed.D.
Assessment and Accountability Programs Manager
Student Programs and Services