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THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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February 2009

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, High School Principals, and Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers:

2009 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In the next few weeks, each California public school student will participate in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Embedded in the STAR Program for grade eleven students is the Early Assessment Program (EAP). Our offices have written a letter addressed to grade eleven students encouraging them to complete the EAP and to authorize the release of their EAP results to authorized postsecondary institutions. We are asking for your support to ensure that this letter is distributed to each grade eleven student and that you encourage these students to participate in the EAP during the spring administration of the California Standards Tests (CSTs).

Developed in collaboration with the California Department of Education, State Board of Education, and the California State University (CSU), 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. We are pleased to report that in spring 2008, approximately 76 percent of grade eleven students participated in the EAP in English and 32 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in mathematics.

The EAP identifies a student's need for additional preparation in these areas while still enrolled in high school. Students will then have the opportunity to enroll in English and/or mathematics classes that will include additional instruction during their senior year. Students can also access online college prep tools from the CSU English Success Web site at <http://www.csuenglishsuccess.org/> and the CSU Math Success Web site at <http://www.csumathsuccess.org/>. Students deemed to be college-ready based on their EAP results are exempt from taking CSU placement tests in English and mathematics and move directly into baccalaureate-level classes upon enrollment.

Students who participate in the EAP must complete an additional 15 questions on the English and mathematics portions of the CSTs. Students are also required to complete an essay for the English portion of the test. The essay will be administered prior to the CSTs in March 2009.

The EAP results are incorporated into the STAR Student Report. EAP results can only be released to the CSU and other authorized postsecondary institutions if students fill in the bubble in the EAP Readiness for College English and Mathematics – EAP Augmentation sections on their STAR answer sheets. Please encourage your grade eleven students to release their EAP results. Students who choose not to release their EAP results and later decide to attend a CSU will be required to submit a copy of their STAR Student Report to the CSU upon admission.

High School Principals

Copies of the letter to grade eleven students are included with this letter for forwarding to your grade eleven English and mathematics teachers to distribute to their grade eleven students. Please indicate to your school staff the importance of distributing the letter to grade eleven students at least two weeks before the CSTs are administered on your high school campus.

Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers

Copies of the letter to grade eleven students are included with this letter to high school principals. Once you receive the copies of the letter to grade eleven students please distribute them to grade eleven students enrolled in your English and mathematics class at least two weeks before the CSTs are administered on your high school campus.

Additional Information

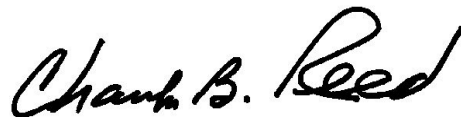
You can find information about the EAP on the CSU EAP Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/>. If you have any questions regarding the EAP, please contact Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director, Student Academic Support, at 562-951-4724 or by e-mail at eapmail@calstate.edu.

Thank you for your continued support of the Early Assessment Program that will help prepare California high school graduates for higher education.

Sincerely,



JACK O'CONNELL
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education



CHARLES B. REED
Chancellor
The California State University

JO/CR:cc
Enclosure

cc: High School Counselors and Career Center Directors
District Standardized Testing and Reporting Coordinators