

Last Minute Memorandum

To: STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Date: July 3, 2003

From: Geno Flores, Deputy Superintendent, Assessment and Accountability Branch

Re: ITEM #19

Subject: Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Including, but not limited to, Approving an Amendment to the 2002-2004 STAR Contract with Educational Testing Services (ETS).

Please remove and replace the following attachment:

[Attachment 1](#): ETS Recommendations No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Middle School and High School Core Knowledge Science Tests (Revised) (Pages 1–3)

**ETS Recommendations
No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
Middle School and High School Core Knowledge Science Tests
(Revised)**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires that, beginning in 2007, each state administer three standards-based science tests every year, one within each of the following grade spans: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. These tests will be designed as core knowledge assessments, measuring fundamental science concepts and skills that all students in the designated grades should know and be able to do.

Educational Testing Service, as part of the 2003 Scope of Work, is field-testing a grade 5-science test in spring 2003 and will implement grade 5-science operational testing in spring 2004. This document contains recommendations for developing and implementing core knowledge science tests at the middle and high school levels. Also included is an updated schedule containing minor revisions to the original plan developed by California Department of Education (CDE) in April 2003.

The sections of this document are outlined below:

- A. General Recommendations for Test Development**
 - B. Revised Proposed Test Development Schedule**
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A. General recommendations for developing the middle school and high school core knowledge science tests.

- Develop 60-item blueprints that represent designated core knowledge standards, including (10 percent) I&E standards. (All other science tests utilize 60-item blueprints and include 10 percent I&E items.)
- Create new items with appropriate levels of difficulty (rather than using existing subject-specific CST items).
- Distribute the items across physical and life sciences. The Content Review Panel (CRP) will make recommendations to the SBE regarding the designation of core knowledge standards.

Do not use the same items for the high school core knowledge test as are used for the subject-specific and integrated CSTs, for two reasons: 1) the field test populations are different for the tests (students within a grade level versus students in any grade who are completing a specific science course); 2) released items may represent different areas of emphasis within standards.

- In the spring 2005 administration, use the embedded field test model as administered in 2003 for grade 5. For each designated grade, create 20 versions, 20 items each (10 items in common across versions).

- Beginning with 2006, embed 6 field test items in each operational form.
- Immediately begin the process of adding new CRP members with middle school or high school science expertise recognizing that there will be many additional items to review each year.

B. Revised proposed schedule

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
Middle School and High School Test Development**

Date	Responsibility	Task
April 2003	ETS	Prepares scope of work and cost proposal for development and implementation of tests.
May 2003	SBE	Approves scope of work and cost proposal.
June 2003	CDE	Secures funding and Department of Finance approval for test development and program implementation.
June-July 2004	CDE/SBE	Identifies and selects members for CRP with middle school science expertise, and new members to replace current inactive members, if any.
September-October 2003	ETS	Prepares draft discussion points and approaches to the blueprints for presentation to CRP.
October 2003	CDE	Reviews and approves discussion points and approaches to the blueprints for discussion at November CRP meeting
November 13–16, 2003	CRP	Recommends grade levels for test administration and preliminary recommendations for blueprints (this meeting may also include item review of grade 5 or subject-specific 2005 FT items).
January 2004	SBE	Approves general content and grade levels for test administration.
January 30–February 1, 2004	CRP	Makes final recommendations for blueprints (this meeting will also include item review of grade 5 or subject-specific 2005 FT items).
March 2004	SBE	Adopts blueprints.
March–June 2004	ETS	Develops test items.
April and July 2004	CRP	Reviews items for accuracy and alignment to standards.
August 2004	SPAR Panel	Reviews items for issues of privacy.
August 2004	ETS	Builds field test versions for embedding in STAR 2005 grade level test books.
September 2004	CDE	Reviews lasers for 2005 administration.
October–November 2004	ETS	Prints 2005 STAR test books, including field test items in grade level books.
Spring 2005	ETS	Administers field test items at designated grades.

January– June 2005	ETS	Continue development of test items.
January– July 2005	CRP	Reviews items for accuracy and alignment to standards.
August 2005	SPAR Panel	Reviews items for issues of privacy.
August 2005	ETS	Builds operational forms including field test items.
Spring 2006	STAR Contractor	Administers operational forms including field test items.
May-June 2006	STAR Contractor	Continue development of test items.
July 2006	CRP	Reviews items for accuracy and alignment to standards.
August 2006	SPAR Panel	Reviews items for issues of privacy.
August 2006	CDE	Reports tests results of Spring 2006 Administration.
August 2006	STAR Contractor	Completes technical manual.
September 2006	STAR Contractor	Organizes and supervises standard setting following operational administration and recommends performance levels to SBE-CDE.
November 2006	SBE	Approves performance levels.
November- December 2006	SBE	Holds public hearings on approved performance levels.
January 2006	SBE	Adopts performance levels.
January 2007	CDE	Performance levels applied retroactively and results sent to districts.
Spring 2007	STAR Contractor	Second operational test administered.
August 2007	CDE	Results reported using adopted performance levels.
August 2007	CDE	Results used to calculate new base science API.