



JUNE 2003 AGENDA

SUBJECT Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR): Update on the Plan for Releasing California Standards Test (CST) Items.	X	ACTION
	X	INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

An update on the plan to release items for the CSTs is submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE) for their information and review.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In April of 2002, the SBE adopted the Three Year Plan for the Development Of California’s Assessment System. In keeping with one of the six principles in the Three Year Plan which seeks to make state assessment results as useful as possible to administrators, teachers, parents and students, the sub-score reporting for all standards tests was approved. This will allow for important information on the strengths and weaknesses in student performance in each content strand.

At the December 2002 SBE meeting, the Report for Teachers was also approved by SBE in order to provide as much useful information as possible to teachers.

In order to provide materials that reinforce the state’s content standards and provide useful information regarding the CSTs, the SBE was provided a plan at the March 2003 meeting that outlined the process and timeline for releasing items. The cumulative result is that in three years, the released items will resemble a model of a complete test form

This item provides an update and small modifications to the previously provided timeline.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

Educational Testing Service (ETS), the current STAR contractor, in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE), have revised Attachment 1 that describes the plan for releasing items, the general criteria to be used, and the number of items that will be released in the next three years. This work is part of the Scope of Work for ETS and is submitted to SBE for their information and review.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

None.

Attachment(s)

[Attachment 1: Item Release For The California Standards Tests 2003 \(Pages 1-2\)](#)

ITEM RELEASE FOR THE CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TESTS 2003

Work Plan for Item Release

Action	Responsibility	Dates
Determine guidelines for released items.	CDE/ETS	January 27-March 7
Determine statewide data to be released, if any.	CDE/ETS	January 27-February 28
Select a draft set of released items for each content area grade and course.	ETS assessment specialists	January 27-March 15
Review draft sets.	CRPs	Science – March 28 H-SS – April 2 ELA – April 9 Math – April 10
Review and approve draft sets.	CDE	April 14 – 25
Compose items in sets.	ETS production department	May 1 – 30
Provide samples of released items presented by exemplar or by strand for review.	ETS	May 22
Review draft sets (second review).	CRPs	Science – July 24 H-SS – June 4 ELA – May 8 Math – June 26
Provide an update to State Board of Education.	CDE	June 11-12
Provide statistical data.	ETS psychometric team	July 18
Reevaluate draft sets; revise if needed.	ETS assessment specialists	July 21
Review and approve final documents.	CDE	August 1
Post released items to CDE website.	CDE	August 30

Release Plan

Guidelines for Items Released

In the first year, a minimum of 20%, with a goal of 25%, of the items on each test will be released. For year 2, up to 40%, dependent on the percentage from year 1, for a maximum of 60% items released in years 1 and 2 cumulatively. Finally, in year 3 the final 40% will be released. The complete set of items released at the end of three years shall be reflective of the breadth of standards that are assessed on a test.

Items as Exemplars of Performance Levels

When possible, items will be released in appropriate groupings to accommodate the concept of performance level exemplars. One example of a potential item group descriptor could be: “A student performing at the proficient level would typically get items in this group (and lower performance level groups) correct.”

The percent of students who answered the item correctly at each performance level will be

provided. The performance levels are: Advanced; Proficient; Basic; and Below Basic/Far Below Basic.

Proportional Release of Items by Strand Level

Items will be released in approximate proportion to the blueprint at the strand level. The specific standard assessed by each item will be identified.

General Criteria for Released Item Selection

1. All items will be taken from the items that appeared on the 2003 operational form and forms thereafter.
2. Within each grade or subject-specific CST, items should represent a variety of content standards, with strands covered in proportion to the operational test to the extent possible.
3. Within each grade or subject-specific CST, and upon completion of the three year schedule for release, individual items will be selected to provide a range of difficulty comparable to the items that appear on the test. Additionally, the total items released will be representative of the overall difficulty of the operational form.
4. Within each grade or subject-specific CST, items should represent a variety of item types (e.g., for mathematics, with and without graphics).
5. Within each grade or subject-specific CST, items should provide multicultural representation whenever possible.
6. The variety of items released should communicate information that would be helpful in guiding standards-based instruction.

Number of Items Released by Year

<i>Content Area</i>	Grade/Course	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3
		<i>20% or 25%</i>		<i>40% or 35%</i>		<i>40%</i>
English- Language Arts	Grades 2-3	13 items	16 items	26 items	23 items	26 items
	Grades 4-11	15 items	19 items	30 items	26 items	30 items
Mathematics	Grades 2-7	13 items	16 items	26 items	23 items	26 items
	Subject-specific	13 items	16 items	26 items	23 items	26 items
History – Social Science	Grade 8	15 items	19 items	30 items	26 items	30 items
	Grades 10, 11	12 items	15 items	24 items	21 items	24 items
Science	Subject-specific	12 items	15 items	24 items	21 items	24 items