



# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MARCH 2004 AGENDA

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| <b>SUBJECT</b><br><br>Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program:<br>Approval of Performance Standards (Levels) for the Grade 5<br>Science California Standards Test (CST) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Action</b>      |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Information</b> |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Hearing</b>         |

### RECOMMENDATION

Review and approve the performance standards (levels) for the Grade 5 Science California Standards Test and direct staff to hold regional public hearings on the proposed performance standards (levels).

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- The State Board of Education (SBE) approved the development and administration of a grade 5 science CST in December 2001 and approved the test blueprint in October 2002.
- SBE adopted science performance standards (levels) for biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics in November 2001 and for integrated/coordinated sciences 1, 2, 3, and 4 in January 2003.

### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001*, requires that, not later than the 2007-2008 school year, each state administers 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 measure the science concepts and skills that students should know and be able to do at the grades assessed.

California *Education Code* Section 60642.5 requires a science test be administered in at least one elementary or middle school grade level, as selected by SBE. At the December 2001 meeting, SBE approved the development of a science CST to be administered at grade 5, covering the grade 4 and 5 science standards. Subsequently, the test blueprint was approved at the October 2002 SBE meeting.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) administered the grade 5 science field tests in spring 2003 and will implement the grade 5 science operational testing in spring 2004. This will also meet the NCLB requirement to administer a standards-based science test in grade span 3-5.

California *Education Code* Section 60605 requires SBE to adopt statewide performance standards (levels) in core curriculum areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history/social science, and science and to conduct regional hearings prior to the adoption of the performance levels.

In February 2004, a performance standards (levels) setting panel, comprised of Content Review Panel (CRP) members, community members, and additional grade 4 and grade 5 teachers was convened. The panel used the Bookmark Method to set cut scores and determine the 5 performance levels (far below basic, below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced) for the grade 5 science test. The Bookmark Method also was used in August 2001 for setting performance levels for the mathematics, high school science, and history-social science CSTs, as well as for the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE), and the California English Language Development Test (CELDT).

California *Education Code* Section 60641 requires that individual results of each pupil tested in STAR be reported to the pupil's school and teacher and be reported in writing to the pupil's parent or guardian. In 2004, after the administration and scoring of the grade 5 science tests, the performance levels will be reported to schools, teachers, parents, and students.

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#### **FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

The cost incurred for completing the performance standards (levels) setting is \$60,424. The cost for refining reports to include the science results to schools, teachers, and parents is \$75,000 for 2003-2004 and \$75,000 for 2004-2005. Funding is linked to SBE's approval of the STAR contract amendment for new item development.

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#### **ATTACHMENT**

The proposed performance standards (levels) for the grade 5 Science California Standards Test will be provided in a Last Minute Memorandum.