



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 2004 AGENDA

SUBJECT Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program: Including, but not limited to Program Update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information
	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION

The following item is provided to the State Board of Education (SBE) for information and action as deemed necessary and appropriate.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The initial California Legislation authorizing the STAR program was signed into law during September 1997. Since the initial authorization, SBE has designated the achievement test (initially the Stanford 9 and currently the California Achievement Test, Sixth Edition (CAT/6) Survey and the primary language achievement test Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2), adopted regulations for the program, approved and monitored the development of the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), adopted performance levels for the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and the CAPA, and approved a plan to release questions from the CSTs each year beginning with the 2003 administration. The SBE also established the test administration window for the STAR program. Annually, all students in grades two through eleven are tested within a 21-day window based on each school's or program's instructional year. The 21-day window includes the ten instructional days before and the ten instructional days after the day on which eighty-five percent of each school's or program's instructional days are completed. After the California Legislature eliminated the Golden State Examination (GSE) Program, the SBE adopted regulations for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma so that students may use CST, as well as GSE, results to qualify for the diploma.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Update

2004 Test Administration: CST-CAT/6 testing began the third week of February and will continue through mid-August. This year's first administration of the grade 4 and 7 writing test component of the California English-Language Arts Standards Test was completed on March 17, 2004. Schools and programs that were not in session on March 16th and May 17th will administer the grade 4 and 7 writing test component on May 10th and May 11th. Administration of the CAPA began on April 12, 2004, and will continue through May 21, 2004. Districts also began administering the SABE/2 the third week of February. All districts will complete SABE/2 testing by May 14, 2004. By the end

of April, testing will have begun or been completed in approximately ninety percent of the school districts.

2003 CST Released Questions: The 2003 CST released questions are to be posted on the Internet by the end of April. All test questions are aligned to the CST blueprints that were revised for the 2003 tests. No changes were made in the blueprints for 2004.

2005 Test Development in Process: Work has begun on the 2005 tests with staff currently reviewing sets of field-test questions that will be embedded in the operational test forms. Depending on the grade level and content area there will be up to forty-four versions of each 2005 test. The number of versions of each grade and subject area CST is determined by the number of new questions that need to be field-tested to maintain a bank of items that is sufficiently robust to develop the regular tests during subsequent years. Each CST version includes the year's regular test questions plus a randomly assigned set of six field-test questions. The field-test questions are administered to determine if they are appropriate to use on future tests.

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma: The Title 5 Regulations that were approved by the SBE in March are currently at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review. Staff expects the Secretary of State to receive the regulations by mid-May. The California Department of Education (CDE) asked that the regulations become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State, so that the diploma seal can be awarded to this year's eligible seniors. A diploma seal has been designed for schools to affix to eligible students' regular high school diplomas. The two-inch seal has a poppy in the center with Golden State Seal Merit Diploma printed around it. The perimeter of the seal has State Superintendent of Public Instruction around the upper edge of the seal and SBE around the lower edge. Two seals will be provided for each student eligible for the diploma: a gold embossed seal to affix to the student's high school diploma and a black and white seal for use on the student's high school transcripts.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

All items presented in this program update are currently funded under contracts with CDE.

ATTACHMENT

None