

Instruction

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

The district shall administer the following assessments in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program: (Education Code 60640)

1. A nationally norm-referenced achievement test designated by the State Board of Education (SBE) in basic academic skills pursuant to Education Code 60642 to each student in grades 3 and 7.
2. Achievement tests aligned with the state standards, as designed by the SBE pursuant to Education Code 60642.5 to each student in grades 2-8.
3. A primary language test for any limited English proficient student who has been enrolled in a California public school for less than 12 months, if such a test is available. This test shall be administered in addition to any norm-referenced achievement test and standards-based achievement test. (Education Code 60640)
4. The California Alternative Performance Assessment for any special education student whose individualized education program (IEP) specifically states that he/she will be assessed with the California Alternate Performance Assessment due to the student's inability to participate in any applicable norm-referenced test and standards-based achievement test, even with appropriate accommodation. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCF 852)

Any special education student who is an English learner may be tested with the designated primary language test in accordance with item #3 above, unless the IEP specifically exempts him/her from such testing. (5 CCF 881)

(cf. 6159 – Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 – Identification and Education under Section 504)

Testing Period

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) assessments shall be administered to students during a testing window of 21 instructional days that includes 10 instructional days before and after completion of 85% of the school's, track's or program's instructional days. Testing for all students, including make-up testing, shall be completed within this 21 instructional day window unless all or part of the 21 instructional day period falls after any statutorily specified deadline. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCR 855)

The Superintendent or designee shall arrange for make-up days for the testing of students who were absent during the period that any school administered the designated achievement test and the standards-based test. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCR 855)

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Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program (continued)

Exemptions

A parent/guardian may submit to the school a written request to excuse his/her child from any or all parts of any test. The district and its employees may discuss the STAR program with parents/guardians and may inform them of the availability of exemptions under Education Code 60615. However, the district and its employees shall not solicit or encourage and written exemption request on behalf of any student or group of students. (5 CCR 852)

Testing Variations

The STAR assessment shall be administered in accordance with the manuals or other instructions provided by the test contractor, unless an testing variation, accommodation, or modification is specifically allowed in 5 CCR 853 or 853.5. (Education Code 60640; 5 CCR 853, 853.5)

All students shall be provided with simplified or clarified test directions, special or adaptive furniture, special lighting or acoustics, an individual carrel or study enclosure a separate testing room, and/or markers, masks, or other means to maintain visual attention, if such variations are regularly used in the classroom. (5 CVCF 853.5)

English learners shall be provided a flexible setting, flexible schedule, translated directions and/or glossaries under the conditions described in 5 CCR 853.5, if these variations are regularly used in the classroom or for assessment. (5 CCR 853.5)

Students with disabilities shall be permitted to take the assessments with any of the testing variations listed in 5 CCR 853.5, provided the variations are specified in their IEP or Section 504 plan. These variations may include accommodations in the presentation or setting of the test administration or in how a student is allowed to respond, and/or modifications in accordance with 5 CCR 853.5. A special education student shall be allowed to test below his/her grade level only in accordance with 5 CCR 853. (5 CCR 850, 853, 853.5)

District and Test Site Coordinators

Each year the Superintendent or designee shall designate a district coordinator who shall serve as the district representative and liaison with the California Department of Education for all matters relating to the STAR program. The Superintendent or designee also shall designate a coordinator at each test site. (5 CCR 857-858, 886-887)

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Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program (continued)

In addition to the duties prescribed in 5 CCF 857-858 and 886, the district coordinator shall establish guidelines to help ensure that the test contractor is provided complete student information, as specified in 5 CCR 861 and 870, for purposes of the Academic Performance Index.

Within five working days of receiving reports and files from the publisher, the Superintendent and the district coordinator shall review the files and reports for completeness and accuracy, and shall notify the test contractor and the California Department of Education of the findings. The Superintendent or district coordinator shall notify the California Department in writing whether any errors, discrepancies, or incomplete information has been resolved. (CCR 857)

Report of Test Results

The Superintendent or designee shall forward the student report provided by the test contractor to the student's parents/guardians within 20 working days of receiving the report from the contractor. If these reports are received from the contractor after the last day of instruction in the school year, each student's results shall be mailed to his/her parents/guardians. (5 CCR 863)

The report shall include a clear explanation of the purpose of the test, the student's score, and its intended use by the district. (Education Code 60641)

(cf. 5125 – Student Records)

Districtwide, school-level, and grade-level results shall be reported to the Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Board shall not receive individual students' scores or the relative position of any individual student. (Education Code 60641)

Individual test results shall not be released without the written consent of the adult student or the minor student's parents/guardians to any person other than a parent/guardian; a teacher, counselor or administrator directly involved with the student; or a postsecondary educational institution for the purpose of credit, placement, or admission. (Education Code 60607, 60641)

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