

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Governing Board believes that the primary purpose of student assessments should be to help students, parents/guardians and teachers identify individual student's academic strengths and progress, as well as areas needing improvement, in order to enhance teaching and learning. Assessments should also serve to determine the effectiveness of the schools and the District as measured by students' growth in knowledge of fundamental skills and their ability to apply those skills.

The Board desires to use a variety of evaluation measures to reach the above goals. To have validity, tests must correspond to the material that is being taught and measure the extent to which students meet clearly specified standards of achievement. A single test or testing method cannot be expected to always take ethnic, cultural or gender differences into account, nor to provide an accurate assessment of each student's skills.

The Board believes that a variety of testing tools should be used to assess students. The foundation of student assessment is the administration, on a routine basis, of testing by classroom teachers to determine student progress. The Governing Board strongly believes that a districtwide measurement system, which is comparable to national norms and can be used to measure growth over time and for student placement, is a vital component of this testing program.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Mandatory Statewide Assessments

The Superintendent or designee shall administer mandatory student assessments in core curricular areas to all students in Grades 2-11 as required by law (Education Code 60640).

The Board desires to use the results of the statewide, nationally normed assessment to compare the performance of its students with that of other students taking the same test as part of the norming study.

Mandatory Statewide Assessments include the following:

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING (STAR) PROGRAM

The Superintendent or designee shall administer the mandatory statewide STAR test to all students in Grades 2-11 in the time frame as directed by the California Department of Education each year. Pursuant to Education Code 60644, in the future this test will be utilized to assess student attainment of academic content and performance standards as adopted by the State Board of Education.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT (continued)

Special education students shall be exempted from the testing requirement if they have an explicit provision in their individualized education program that so exempts them (Education Code 60640).

Any District student who has been enrolled in a California public school for less than 12 months shall take both the statewide assessment in English and a test in their primary language if such a test is available (Education Code 60640).

Upon written request by the parent/guardian, a student shall be excused from any or all parts of statewide student assessments (Education Code 60615).

The Superintendent or designee shall report the results of each student's test in writing to the student's parents/guardians. The report shall include an explanation of the purpose of the test and the student's score as provided by the state selected test contractor. (Education Code 60641) Individual student's scores shall also be reported to the student's school and teachers and shall be included in the student's records. Individual test results shall not be released without the permission of the student's parents/guardians (Education Code 60641).

When provided by the state-approved test coordinator, districtwide, school-level and grade-level results shall be reported to the Governing Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Board shall not receive individual student's scores or the relative position of any individual student (Education Code 60641).

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the following information (Education Code 60640):

1. The number of students enrolled in the District in Grades 2-11.
2. The number of students in the District to whom an achievement test was administered in Grades 2-11.
3. The number of special education students in the District who were exempted from the test based on an explicit provision in their individualized education program.
4. The number of students in the District who were exempted from the test at their parents/guardians request.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT (continued)**Individual Record of Accomplishment**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each student, by the end of Grade 12, has an individual record of accomplishment that includes the following (Education Code 60607):

1. The results of mandatory state assessments administered pursuant to Education Code 60640-60647
2. The results of any districtwide testing program
3. The results of any end-of-course examinations taken
4. The results of any vocational education certification examinations taken

- a. Physical Fitness Examination

The Superintendent or designees shall administer mandatory Physical Fitness testing to all students in Grades 5, 7, and 9 as required by law (Education Code 60800).

- b. Golden State Examinations

The Board believes that participation in the Golden State Examinations can motivate students to succeed in key academic courses.

Participation in the Golden State Examinations shall be voluntary. The Board strongly encourages students to accept the challenge these examinations present.

When districtwide and school-level results of student assessments administered by the state of California are published, the Superintendent or designee may provide supplementary information to assist the local community in interpreting test results and evaluating school performance.

- c. Competency Tests

The Governing Board, in compliance with Education Code 51216, administers competency testing in mathematics, reading, and written expression. This testing program is initiated at Grade 6 and the District's CORE Level test is used as the assessment tool. No student may graduate from a District high school who has not achieved the minimum standards.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT (continued)**Other Assessments**

1. Testing for Advanced Standing

The Governing Board strongly encourages secondary students to attempt the most challenging academic course of study available. Each spring the College Board, through the Advanced Placement Program and the International Baccalaureate Organization, administers a battery of examinations which offer students the opportunity to obtain advanced academic standing at colleges and universities throughout the world. Schools are encouraged to offer students these testing opportunities.

2. Testing for College Matriculation

The Governing Board promotes student participation in the college matriculation process. Inherent in this process are a battery of examinations administered by the College Board and the American Testing Company. The Superintendent or designee shall routinely provide to secondary students information and preparation to meet the challenges found in either or both testing programs successfully.

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

51041 Governing board shall evaluate educational program

52011 Establishment of plan for phase-in of School Improvement Plan

60600-60614 California School Testing Act

60650 Personal beliefs (re questionnaires, etc.)

60660-60663 Testing, evaluation, and analysis

60700-60703 Golden State Examination Program

60722 Published standardized tests: duties of districts

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1041 Physical performance testing program

4400 Concentrations of educationally disadvantaged youth

Larry P. v. Riles (9th Cir. 1984) 793 F.2d 969, (N.D. Cal. 1979) 495 F. Supp. 926

*Management Resources:*CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

0924444.91 Clarification of Crawford v. Honig LO: 2-91

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

0327.86 Reporting norm-referenced standardized achievement test scores to parents