

California High School Exit Examination 2008–09

Notice to Parents, Guardians, and Students

All California public school students are required by state law to satisfy the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) requirement, as well as all other state and local graduation requirements, in order to receive a high school diploma. The CAHSEE requirement can be satisfied by passing the exam or, for students with disabilities, receiving a local waiver pursuant to *Education Code* Section 60851(c)4. All students, including English learners and students with disabilities, must take the CAHSEE for the first time in grade ten. Students who do not pass the exam in tenth grade will have additional opportunities in grades eleven and twelve to retake the part(s) not passed.

Subjects Covered on the CAHSEE

The exam consists of two parts: (1) English–language arts (reading and writing) and (2) mathematics. All questions are aligned to California content standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Content standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level from kindergarten through grade twelve. Your school district can provide you with information on the content standards assessed by the CAHSEE, or you can download the CAHSEE test blueprints located on the California Department of Education (CDE) CAHSEE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>.

Requirements for Passing the CAHSEE

Students must earn a score of 350 or higher on each part of the CAHSEE (English–language arts and mathematics) to pass the exam. Students do not need to pass both parts of the exam during the same administration in order to satisfy the CAHSEE requirement.

Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities

The CAHSEE regulations specify accommodations and modifications that students with disabilities must be permitted to use if specified in the student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan for use on the CAHSEE, standardized testing, or for use during classroom instruction and assessments. Students who use an accommodation and earn a score of 350 or higher have passed that part of the CAHSEE. Students who use a modification and earn the equivalent of a passing score on one or both parts of the CAHSEE have not passed but may be eligible for a waiver of the CAHSEE requirement. Parents or guardians must ask the school principal to submit a waiver on behalf of their student. More information on accommodations, modifications, and the waiver process can be found on the CDE CAHSEE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/accomod.asp>.

Test Variations for English Learners

English learners must be permitted to take the CAHSEE with certain test variations if used regularly in the classroom. For example, if regularly used in the classroom, English learners must be permitted to hear the test directions in their primary language or use a translation glossary.

Students who are English learners are required to take the CAHSEE in grade ten with all other

grade ten students. During their first 24 months in a California school, English learners are to receive six months of instruction in reading, writing, and comprehension in English (*Education Code Section 60852*). During this time, they are still required to take the CAHSEE. All students must pass the CAHSEE in English to receive their high school diploma.

Graduation Requirements

All California public school students must satisfy the CAHSEE requirement, in addition to meeting all other state and local graduation requirements, to receive their high school diploma. Students with disabilities and English learners must also satisfy the CAHSEE requirement.

Testing Dates

The CAHSEE will be administered at the school site during regular school hours on the dates specified in the chart below. Students in grade ten must take the CAHSEE during the **March 2009** administration. For grade ten students who are absent, a make-up administration will be offered in **May 2009**. Grade eleven and twelve students who have not passed one or both parts of the CAHSEE will be offered the exam on the dates listed in the chart below.

2008-09

Designated CAHSEE Testing Dates*

English–Language Arts	Mathematics	
Tuesday	Wednesday	Administered To
November 4, 2008	November 5, 2008	11 th and 12 th graders
March 17, 2009	March 18, 2009	10 th and 12 th graders
May 12, 2009	May 13, 2009	10 th grade (make-ups only), 11 th and 12 th graders

For More Information...

For the latest information regarding the CAHSEE, please visit the California Department of Education CAHSEE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tq/hs/>. If you have any further questions about the CAHSEE, please contact our school office at **760.868.6277**