

California High School Exit Examination

Information for Parents/Guardians

EL TEJON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Questions and Answers for Parents/Guardians

What is the *CAHSEE*?

State law, enacted in 1999, authorized the development of the California High School Exit Examination (*CAHSEE*), which students would have to pass in order to earn a high school diploma. Beginning with the 2005-06 school year, all California public school students must pass the *CAHSEE* and meet all other state and local requirements in order to receive a high school diploma. The purpose of the *CAHSEE* is to improve student achievement in high school and help ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate competency in reading, writing, and mathematics.

What subjects does the *CAHSEE* cover?

The *CAHSEE* is divided into two parts: English-language arts and mathematics.

One part of the *CAHSEE* addresses state English-language arts content standards through grade ten, including reading, decoding, and writing.

The reading and decoding section covers the following:

- Vocabulary
- Informational reading
- Literary reading

The writing section covers:

- Writing strategies
- Writing applications
- Writing conventions

The other part of the *CAHSEE* addresses state mathematics content standards in grades six and seven and Algebra I, including the following:

- Statistics, data analysis, and probability
- Number sense
- Measurement and geometry
- Algebra and functions
- Mathematical reasoning
- Algebra I

Students must demonstrate computational skills and a foundation in arithmetic, including working with decimals, fractions, and percentages.

What kinds of questions are on the *CAHSEE*?

The English-language arts part of the *CAHSEE* consists of multiple-choice questions and a writing task. The mathematics part consists of all multiple-choice questions. The exam is given only in English.

When is the *CAHSEE* administered?

The *CAHSEE* will be given at Frazier Mountain High School during regular school hours. The English-language arts part is administered on day one and the mathematics part on the following day. All students must take the *CAHSEE* for the first time in grade ten. Students who do not pass the exam in grade ten may have up to five additional opportunities to retake the part(s) not passed.

When do parents/guardians receive their student's results?

About ten weeks after each *CAHSEE* administration, El Tejon USD will receive two copies of the *CAHSEE* Student and Parent Report for each student who took the exam. The El Tejon USD will distribute one copy to parents/guardians and place the other copy in the student's permanent record. A scale score of 350 or higher is required on each part of the *CAHSEE* to pass. Students do not need to pass both parts of the *CAHSEE* at the same administration in order to satisfy the *CAHSEE* requirement. Students who do not pass one or both parts of the *CAHSEE* in grade ten will have additional opportunities in grade eleven and yet again in grade twelve, if needed.

In addition, students may have one opportunity after grade twelve.

Does passing the *CAHSEE* guarantee that a student will receive a high school diploma?

No. Passing the *CAHSEE* is just one requirement for graduating from high school. Students also must meet other state and local requirements to receive a diploma.

How can parents/guardians help their students prepare for the *CAHSEE*?

The best academic preparation for the *CAHSEE* is good instruction. Parents/guardians should talk with their student's teacher or principal to learn more about the state academic content standards in English-language arts and mathematics being taught at their student's school. Parents/guardians whose student needs extra instruction to pass the *CAHSEE* should make sure he or she is enrolled in additional learning opportunities provided at the school. The California Department of Education has posted released *CAHSEE* test questions and *CAHSEE* study guides on its Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>.

What is done to assist students with special needs?

A student with special needs may need to take the *CAHSEE* with a test variation. A test variation is a change in the manner in which a test is presented or administered, or in how a test taker is allowed to respond. Test variations include, but are not limited to, accommodations and modifications. An accommodation is a change in the testing environment or process that does not alter what is intended to be tested by the *CAHSEE*, whereas a modification is a change that alters what is intended to be tested.

Any student whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan specifies the need for accommodations or modifications for use on the *CAHSEE*, standardized testing, or for use during classroom instruction and assessment **must** be allowed to use them for the *CAHSEE*. 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 have earned the equivalent of a passing score may be eligible for a diploma if a waiver of the requirement to pass one or both parts of the *CAHSEE* is granted by the local school board. Parents/guardians must ask the school to submit a waiver on behalf of their child.

What is done to assist English learners?

Students who are English learners are required to take the *CAHSEE* in grade ten with all other tenth grade 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. Recently, test variations for English learners were added to the *CAHSEE* regulations allowing English learners to use a flexible setting or schedule or add extra time to complete the examination. The regulations also allow students to hear the test directions in their primary language or use a translation glossary.

For More Information

Visit the CDE Web site:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>