



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

California Standards Tests

The California Standards Tests (CSTs) are given to public school students in Grades 2 through 11 as part of the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. **The STAR Program consists of four parts:** the California Standards Tests (CSTs), the California Achievement Test, Sixth Edition (CAT/6), the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), and either the Standards-Based Tests in Spanish (STS) or the Apenda 3.

The California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and History/Social Science are comprised of items that were developed specifically to assess students' performance on California's content standards. The State Board of Education adopted the content standards specifying what all California children are expected to know and be able to do. The content standards are grade and course specific. The 2007 standards tests are required for students who are enrolled in the following grades/courses at the time of testing or who had completed a course during the 2006-07 school year:

English Language Arts (ELA)

All students in Grades 2 through 11 take the California Standards Test in English Language Arts (reading and writing). Students taking the Grade 4 and 7 CST also write an essay in response to a writing prompt.

Mathematics

All students in Grades 2 through 7 take the mathematics grade level exam. Students in Grades 7 through 11 who have completed or are taking Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year Integrated Mathematics take the appropriate course subject exam. Students in Grades 8 and 9 who have not or are not taking one of these courses take the General Mathematics Test. Students in Grades 10 or 11 who have completed or are taking Algebra II or 3rd year Integrated Mathematics take the High School Mathematics Exam.

History/Social Science

All students in Grades 8, 10, and 11 take the History/Social Science grade level exam.

Science

All students in Grades 5, 8, and 10 take a science exam, and students in Grades 9 through 11 who have completed or are taking Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics take the appropriate course subject exam.

SUMMARY

- ❖ The CSTs are criterion-referenced tests. Results are based on how well students have mastered identified state-adopted academic content standards, not on how student results compare with results of other students who took the same tests.
- ❖ The CST in English Language Arts (ELA) is given to all students in grades 2-11.
- ❖ A grade-level CST in Mathematics is given to all students in grades 2-7.
- ❖ Course-specific CSTs in Mathematics are given to students in grades 8-11.
- ❖ A grade-level CST in History/Social Science is given to all students in grades 8, 10, and 11.
- ❖ A grade-level CST in Science is given to all students in grades 5, 8, and 10.
- ❖ Course-specific CSTs in Science are given to students in grades 9-11.

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