

learn more about California's content standards in English–language arts and mathematics being taught at their child's school. To help students, parents, and guardians, prepare for the CAHSEE, the California Department of Education (CDE) has released sample CAHSEE test questions and CAHSEE study guides. These materials can be found on the CDE CAHSEE Program Resources Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>.

Parents or guardians whose child needs extra instruction to pass the CAHSEE should make sure he or she takes advantage of additional learning opportunities provided by the school.

Are students with disabilities required to pass the CAHSEE?

Eligible students with disabilities are exempt* from the requirement to pass the CAHSEE as a condition of graduation from high school (*EC* Section 60852.3). An eligible student, as defined in the law, is a student with an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan that indicates that the student has satisfied or will satisfy all other state and local requirements to receive a high school diploma on or after July 1, 2009. Students with disabilities are required, in grade ten only, to take the CAHSEE to meet state and federal requirements, but not as a condition of graduation.

What is done to assist students with disabilities when taking the CAHSEE?

The CAHSEE regulations specify accommodations and modifications that students with disabilities must be permitted to use if specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan for use on the CAHSEE, standardized testing, or for use during classroom instruction and assessments.

More information on exemptions, accommodations, modifications, and the waiver

process can be found on the CDE CAHSEE Frequently Asked Questions Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/faq.asp>.

What is done to assist students who are English learners when taking the CAHSEE?

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, students 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 6 months of instruction in reading, writing, and comprehension in English (*EC* Section 60852). During this time, they are still required to take the CAHSEE.

For more information...

Visit the CDE CAHSEE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/>

or

Contact your child's teachers, principal, or counselor.

* *EC* Section 60852.3 states that this exemption shall last until the California State Board of Education (SBE) makes a determination that alternative means are not feasible or that alternative means are implemented. On July 14, 2010, the SBE determined that alternative means to the CAHSEE for eligible students with disabilities are feasible and requested that the implementation date for alternative means be extended from January 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012. The exemption from meeting the CAHSEE requirement remains in place until alternative means are implemented.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

Information for Parents and Guardians for the 2010–11 School Year

Prepared by
California Department of Education

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Information for Parents and Guardians

What is the CAHSEE?

State law, enacted in 1999, authorized the development of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE), which students have to pass to earn a high school diploma.

All California public school students, except eligible students with a disability*, must satisfy the CAHSEE requirement, as well as all other state and local requirements, to receive a high school diploma. The CAHSEE requirement can be satisfied by passing the examination, or for students with disabilities, meeting the exemption requirement pursuant to *California Education Code (EC)* Section 60852.3, or receiving a local waiver pursuant to EC Section 60851(c).

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 grade-level competency in California's content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) for reading, writing, and mathematics. Content standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level from kindergarten through grade twelve.

What subjects does the CAHSEE cover?

The CAHSEE consists of two parts: English–language arts and mathematics. One part of the CAHSEE addresses California's English–language arts content standards through grade ten, including reading and writing.

The reading section covers:

- Vocabulary
- Informational reading comprehension
- Literary response and analysis

The writing section covers:

- Writing strategies
- Writing applications
- Written and oral English language conventions

The other part of the CAHSEE addresses California's 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 of knowledge 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 (essay). The mathematics part consists of all multiple-choice questions. Examination questions are administered only in English.

When is the CAHSEE administered?

The CAHSEE is administered at the school site during regular school hours on the State Superintendent of Public Instruction approved dates chosen by your school district. The English–language arts part is administered on

the first day of testing and the mathematics part on the second day.

All students must take the CAHSEE for the first time in grade ten.

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 during the same test administration 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 in grade twelve, if needed. Students who have not passed one or both parts of the CAHSEE by the end of grade twelve may contact their school or school district to inquire about options available to them.

When do parents or guardians receive their child's results?

Within eight weeks after the examination, school districts will receive two copies of the CAHSEE Student and Parent Report for each student who took the examination. The school district will distribute one copy to the student's parents or guardians and place the other copy in the student's permanent record.

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 all other state and local requirements to receive a diploma.

How can parents or guardians help their child prepare for the CAHSEE?

The best academic preparation for the CAHSEE is good instruction. Parents or guardians should talk with their child's teachers or principal to