

New Statewide Assessments Have Begun in California

Please use the talking points below when communicating to your stakeholders about the new assessments being administered in California.

- **THE NEW ASSESSMENTS ARE PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS.**
 - To help prepare students for the challenges of the future, California has developed a comprehensive plan for high-quality teaching and learning for every public school in the state.
 - The plan includes higher academic standards, more local decision making and more resources dedicated to schools and students with greatest need.
 - These system-wide changes will prepare students to achieve their college and career dreams.
- **THE NEW TESTING SYSTEM IS BUILT TO HELP TEACHERS TEACH.**
 - Teachers want to know what students know so they can adjust instruction. The new tests provide another mechanism to assess student progress.
 - Students in grades three through eight and grade eleven will take these new computer-based tests, which have replaced the former pencil and paper multiple choice assessments, in English language arts/literacy and math.
 - The tests are an academic check-up, designed to give teachers feedback they need to improve instruction, and the tools to improve teaching and learning.
 - The assessments are online and computer-adaptive, providing more accurate information about individual student performance to teachers and schools on a timely basis.
- **THE NEW ASSESSMENTS ARE A RESET FROM THE OLD ASSESSMENTS, AND THEY CAN'T BE COMPARED.**
 - The new tests are too fundamentally different from the old exams to make any reliable comparisons between old scores and new. This year's test results will only establish a baseline for the progress we can expect students to make over time.
 - No student, parent or teacher should be discouraged by the scores, which will not be used to determine whether a student moves onto the next grade.
 - The results will provide an opportunity to focus on the needs of students and support teachers and schools in their work.
- **WE SHOULD EXPECT ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY.**
 - California's most valuable resource is its people. As a diverse and complex state, our schools can develop an agile, capable workforce with a wide range of skills to fuel our economy and move our state forward.
 - Adjustments will always be needed to make lasting progress. Patience and persistence will be required to help our schools continue to succeed during this time of transition.
 - Together, we will foster the skills and talents to prepare our children for the workforce demands of the 21st century.

Additional Resources:

- California's Superintendent of Public Instruction supports California's new plan – Read More [Here](#).
- We encourage you to personalize and submit the attached sample letter to your local newspapers.
- Please contact Christina Marcellus in the CCSESA Office if you have additional needs or questions:
 - Office: 916.446.3095 / Cell: 310.963.2023 / cmarcellus@ccsesa.org