



Academic Targets

A HISTORY OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS

The Elk Grove Unified School District has a long history of maintaining high expectations for students. These expectations include setting some of the most rigorous graduation requirements in the state so that students will be prepared for college, technical training schools, and careers. In the mid-1990s the Board of Education adopted academic “standards” that identify the skills that students should learn at each grade level. These standards help ensure that students learn the academic skills they need to be successful in school and in life.

In 1998 we aligned our standards to match the state standards after California’s Board of Education adopted them. The district began using math and language arts textbooks that aligned to the standards when they became available in 2002 and 2003. Classroom lessons also aligned to the standards. In addition, teachers receive training on how to teach these academic skills.

ELK GROVE SETS RIGOROUS ACADEMIC TARGETS

Every parent wants their children to learn the skills they need to be successful, and to be well prepared for the future when they graduate. Our Board of Education has set goals that represent these basic parent expectations:

- 100% of students will be “proficient” or “advanced” in math and English Language Arts (ELA) as measured by the California Standards Test (CST).
- 100% of 12th graders will pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).
- 100% of students will be college and career ready.
- 100% of schools will meet annual Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Academic Performance Index (API) targets.

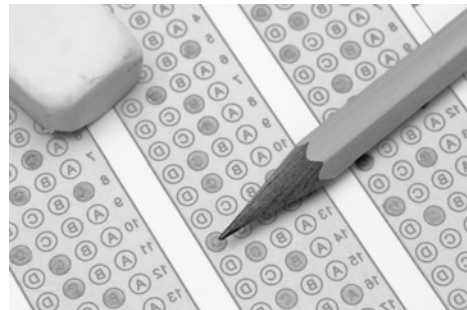
TESTS ALIGN TO STATE STANDARDS

We use many ways to measure how well students are learning the standards. The primary measures are the California Standards Test (CST), given to students in grades 2-11 as part of the state’s Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program and the California High School Exit Exam. The state’s Academic Performance Index (API) is based on these two tests.

Student performance on the CST is scored on five levels — “advanced,” “proficient,” “basic,” “below basic,” and “far below basic.” Students who score at the “proficient” level or higher demonstrate that they have learned the skills they are expected to know.

In Elk Grove, we also monitor student performance through:

- District developed standards-aligned mid-year and end of grade level and course exams.
- Ongoing assessments developed by teachers.



SCHOOL FOCUS ON IMPROVING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Principals and teachers set their own annual school goals to improve performance based on the needs of their students. Schools then focus on moving each student across the CST performance bands until they are “proficient” or “advanced.” Setting these goals is a natural progression of the work we have been doing for many years.