



California High School Exit Exam

What is the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)?

State law (SB2) passed in 1999 authorized the development of the High School Exit Exam. All seniors are required to pass CAHSEE to receive a high school diploma.

What is the purpose of CAHSEE?

The purpose of CAHSEE is to help ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate competency in the content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics adopted by the State Board of Education. Exam results contribute to the school's score on the state's Academic Performance Index and toward the school's "adequate yearly progress" required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

If a student doesn't pass one of the sections, are they required to retake the entire exam?

No. Students must take both sections the first time they take the exam, but they will only need to retake the portion they failed.

What is the passing score for the exam?

The state Board of Education adopted passing scores of 60 percent correct in language arts and 55 percent correct in mathematics.

How have EGUSD students fared on the test?

Students in EGUSD have fared well on the exam since it was first given in 2001. Ninety-four percent of the class of 2008 passed the CAHSEE. Currently, 88 percent of the students in the Class of 2009 have passed both the mathematics and English language arts portions of the CAHSEE.

What is the district doing for students who have not passed the exam?

Students who have not yet passed the exam are being directed into CAHSEE support classes that are offered during the day and after school. In addition, teachers are monitoring the progress of individual students so that they can modify instruction throughout the year to meet the needs of each student. Recent legislation (AB 347) also

entitles students who have not passed the CAHSEE by the end of their senior year to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until he/she passes the CAHSEE, whichever occurs first.

How was the content determined for the CAHSEE?

The CAHSEE Panel reviewed the standards in language arts and mathematics and recommended standards the members felt were essential for students to master for graduation from high school. The language arts test assesses standards through grade 10 and includes a writing sample, while the math test includes an assessment through first-year algebra.

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 must also meet EGUSD's rigorous high school graduation requirements.

Will students who do not pass the CAHSEE but fulfill other graduation requirements be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies?

Seniors who do not pass the CAHSEE exam by June will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremonies or receive a diploma. These students will be given the option to enroll in summer school classes to prepare them for the CAHSEE's July administration. They will also be referred to EGUSD's Adult Education program where they can receive additional support.

What can students do to prepare for the test?

Because the exam is based on skills aligned to Elk Grove's curriculum, the best way for students to prepare for the exam is to work hard in school and to take Algebra 1.

How can parents help students do well on the CAHSEE?

Parents can help their children prepare by talking to their child's math and English teachers about the exam, and making sure class assignments and homework are completed.