
Facts about the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

State Requirement

The purpose of the CAHSEE is (1) to improve student achievement in high school; and (2) to help ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate competency in state academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).

Student Participation

- Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2006, all tenth-grade students are required to take the CAHSEE once in grade 10 in February or March or May, with a make-up in March or May only. Students may be given up to five additional opportunities to retake the examination. Only the part(s) not passed must be taken again.

Test Content

- The English-language arts part of the CAHSEE addresses state academic content standards through grade 10. The examination consists of the multiple-choice questions and a writing task. The reading and decoding portion covers vocabulary, informational reading, and literary reading. The writing portion covers writing strategies, applications, and conventions. The examination has one written response either to literature or an informational passage or to a writing prompt.
- The mathematics part of the CAHSEE addresses state academic content standards in grades 6, 7, and Algebra I. It includes statistics, data analysis and probability, number sense, measurement and geometry, mathematical reasoning, and algebra. Students also must demonstrate strong computational skills and foundation in arithmetic, including working with decimals, fractions, and percents. The math examination consists of all multiple-choice questions.

How can my middle school child begin to prepare for the CAHSEE?

- Stay apprised of your child's progress and work quality.
- Review your child's most recent results on the California Standards Test (CST) in English-language arts and mathematics. These results are a clear indicator of how he/she may continue to perform on standards-based tests. Receiving proficient or advanced indicates student is meeting or exceeding standards.
- Stay in contact with your child's teacher and counselor if any assistance is needed.
- Middle school is an important academic step to a successful high school experience and passing the California High School Exit Exam.

Information on Students with Special Needs

- Students who are English learners are required to take the CAHSEE in grade 10 with all other grade 10 students. The district may defer the requirement that these students pass the CAHSEE for up to 24 calendar months of enrollment in California public schools, but they must still take the CAHSEE during this period of time. The students must complete six months of instruction in reading, writing, and comprehension in English during these 24 months, but they are still required to take the CAHSEE during this time. All students must pass the CAHSEE in English to receive their high school diploma.
- Students with disabilities must pass the CAHSEE to receive their high school diploma. These students must be permitted to take the test with any accommodation or modification specified for the CAHSEE, for standardized testing, or for use during classroom instruction and assessments in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Students who take the CAHSEE with modifications will not receive a valid score. However, at the request of a parent/guardian, a school principal shall submit a request for a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the CAHSEE to the school district governing board for a student with a disability who has taken the CAHSEE with modifications that alter what the test measures and has received the equivalent of a passing score on one or both parts of the CAHSEE. The school district board may waive the requirement to pass one or both parts of the CAHSEE if the student has met the requirements listed in *California Education Code* Section 60851(c).