



Mt. Diablo Unified School District

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OFFICE OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION

March 26, 2014

Notice of Change in California Department of Education State Testing

Dear Parent/Guardian

This notice is being sent to you due to a very important change in the California Department of Education's statewide testing requirements. Last year, your child participated in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, which included the California Standards Test (CST), the California Modified Assessment (CMA), or the California Alternative Performance Assessment (CAPA).

On October 2, 2013, Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 484, which changes the statewide student assessment system in California, effective January 1, 2014. This change is part of California's transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). California, along with 45 other States, will be implementing the Common Core State Standards in an effort to improve our students' college and career readiness in our ever-changing global economy.

As a result of this change in law, during the 2013-14 school year, your child will be participating in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system. The CAASPP system is comprised of tests designed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. The new system also includes tests that were previously administered under the STAR program and will continue to be used until successor tests are developed. Information indicating the assessment(s) your child will take is included in the tables within this letter.

Under state and federal law, whenever a school district proposes or refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a child with a disability, or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child, the school district must provide the parents with "Prior Written Notice" within a reasonable amount of time. This letter is written in response to the statewide change in state testing requirements from the STAR program to the CAASPP system and to provide you with prior written notice of this change in accordance with Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 300.503.

The District's change from the STAR program to the CAASPP system is a legal requirement under Assembly Bill 484 and the California Department of Education's new statewide student assessment system.

The following table indicates the state test(s) that your child took last year (2012-13) and the state test(s) that your child will take this year (2013-14):

2012-13	Subjects Tested	2013-14	Subjects Tested
CST	English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Science and History-Social Science	SBAC and CST	SBAC for ELA and Math CST for Science in Grades 5, 8, and 10
CMA	English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Science	SBAC and CMA	SBAC for ELA and Math CMA for Science in Grades 5, 8, and 10
CAPA	All	CAPA	All (No Change)

The following table indicates the state test and subjects tested in each grade level for the 2013-14 school year:

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CAPA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SBAC ELA		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
SBAC Math		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
CST Science				X			X		X	
CMA Science				X			X		X	
CAPA Science				X			X		X	

Please understand that for this year (2013-14), the implementation and administration of the CAASPP system for English language arts and mathematics is a “field test” and the results of these tests will not be officially reported. This means that this is a “pilot year” that will enable students and teachers in California to transition to this new assessment system. Scores on the CAPA, however, will be developed and reported.

Please be advised that the statewide testing accommodations and/or modifications listed in your child’s current individualized education program (IEP) will be provided and implemented for the CAASPP system to the maximum extent allowed by the California Department of Education and SBAC, as outlined in the Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines. However, the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available under the CAASPP system may be different than those previously used with the STAR program and/or those contained in your child’s IEP. If this is the case, the District will convene an IEP meeting to review and revise, as appropriate, the testing accommodations and/or modifications for state testing that are included in your child’s IEP. This review and revision will, of course, be based on your child’s individual needs and what is required to provide your child with a free appropriate education.

The information considered by the District in transitioning from the STAR program to the CAASPP system includes all of the information listed in Assembly Bill 484 (found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/ab484qa.asp>) and on the California Department of Education's website (found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr13/yr13rel81.asp>) outlining the State's testing requirements.

Please be advised that, as the parent of a child with a disability, you have protection under the procedural safeguards of federal and state law. In that regard, enclosed please find a copy of your Procedural Safeguards. The sources which you may contact to obtain assistance in understanding your rights are as follows:

Hilary Shen
Parent Liaison
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
925-682-8000 ext 4297
shenh@mdusd.org

California Department of Education
Special Education Division
1430 North Street, Suite 2401
Sacramento, CA 95814

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, including the state's change to a new statewide student assessment system and/or how this change might affect your child's current IEP, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sue Massey Clover

Sue Massey Clover M.A.
Administrator, Special Education
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
925-682-8000 ext 4187

Enclosure: Procedural Safeguards

cc: Student cum file