

# *Assessment and Accountability Update*

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## **California Joins the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium**

On June 9, 2011 Superintendent Tom Torlakson, Governor Brown, and State Board of Education President Michael Kirst announced that California will join the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium as a governing state. The joint news release can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr11/yr11rel43.asp>.

Key Features of the SBAC:

- Single end-of-year summative assessments in English-language arts and mathematics in grades three through eight and one in high school (probably grade eleven)
- Computer-adaptive
- Optional interim assessments
- Significant resources for teachers in formative assessment
- Implemented with the 2014-15 school year

More information about the SBAC can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>.

## **California Takes Leadership Role in New Assessment of English Proficiency**

On June 3, 2011 California submitted an application for an Enhanced Assessment Grant opportunity offered by the U.S. Department of Education to develop a new English language proficiency assessment for English learner (EL) students. The application for the English Language Acquisition Assessment System (ELAAS) was submitted on behalf of an 18 state consortium and in partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers. Grant awards are expected in September 2011.

The new assessment would be in place for the 2014-15 school year and would provide both an initial screener for new students and an annual assessment to evaluate progress in language proficiency for EL students. In California, this new assessment would replace the California English Language Development Test or CELDT.

## **How will California Transition to the New Common Assessments?**

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program is authorized through 2013. Assembly Bill (AB) 250 would extend that through 2014 coinciding with the start of the common core assessments. AB 250 also requires the CDE to prepare a report on the future of STAR due November 1, 2012. The future of assessments outside the ESEA required grades and content areas is unknown at this time.

The California High School Exit Examination or CAHSEE is authorized through state law and will continue at this time.

## **Superintendent Torlakson and Legislative Leadership Committed to Broadening School Accountability**

The Academic Performance Index (API) was established by the Public Schools Accountability Act in 1999. Currently the API consists only of student scores on standardized assessments. Superintendent Torlakson strongly believes in an accountability system that is broader and provides schools the opportunity to show their success in a variety of ways. To this end he is sponsoring Senate Bill (SB) 547 by Senator Steinberg.

This bill (see [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb\\_0501-0550/sb\\_547\\_bill\\_20110613\\_amended\\_asm\\_v96.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_0501-0550/sb_547_bill_20110613_amended_asm_v96.pdf)) would significantly restructure school accountability by creating an Education Quality Index or EQI comprised of several component indices covering different areas of education. Included in this bill is the creation of a graduation rate index, a college preparedness index and a career readiness index. A similar measure has also been introduced by Assemblywoman Bonilla in Assembly Bill (AB) 224 (see [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab\\_0201-0250/ab\\_224\\_bill\\_20110527\\_amended\\_asm\\_v97.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_0201-0250/ab_224_bill_20110527_amended_asm_v97.pdf)).

In the current version of SB 547 the State Board of Education would consider and adopt the new accountability system by August 1, 2013 and the 213-14 school year would represent the baseline year for the new system.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **August 2011 Data Releases**

- 2011 STAR Data
- 2011 CAHSEE Data
- 2011 Growth API
- 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- 2011-12 Program Improvement (PI) reports