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**DAVID S. SPENCE**  
**EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR**  
**CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

Code: AA-2003-04  
January 21, 2003

**To:** Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs  
CAPI Directors

**From:** David S. Spence  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

**Subject: Request for CAPI High Schools to Pilot Early Assessments**

## Summary and Requests

The CSU Early Assessment project is progressing well. CSU faculty review and development of tests that the California State Board of Education and the California Department of Education administer to eleventh graders are almost completed. We fully expect that these examinations -- combinations of the California Standards Tests as augmented by Golden State Examinations -- will be offered by the California Department of Education to eleventh graders in at least fifty high schools across California. As a part of continuing CSU/K-12 relations, we understand that many of you have been discussing possible early assessment pilot programs with your participating CAPI high schools.

The California Department of Education is in the process of negotiating with the test contractors to score Early Assessment tests first for up to fifty (50) high schools and to have test results available to us no later than mid-August 2003. For CSU Early Assessment pilot high schools beyond the first fifty, test results will be made available by October 1, 2003. The mid-August test results will permit each CSU campus and at least one partnering high school to move forward with plans and projects to improve curriculum, to customize additional learning activities for underachieving students, and other Early Assessment activities in fall 2003. Any partnership programs, receiving test results in October 2003, can implement plans and projects beginning with the spring 2004 semester.

The contractors need to know the names of the fifty high schools by late February 2003 to ensure that these are first on the list for scoring. As such, we are asking you to review the CAPI high schools with which you have been working and to provide us with high school contact information regarding the campus' Early Assessment partner(s). Please

provide high school contact information (name of high school, address, CAPI contact at the high school, high school contact's e-mail address and telephone number) for at least one high school and no more than three high schools to Assistant Vice Chancellor Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, [mhirano-nakanishi@calstate.edu](mailto:mhirano-nakanishi@calstate.edu) or 562-951-4982 (fax) by **Monday, February 17, 2003**. Every CSU campus is expected to have at least one partner. To reflect the geographic density of high school students, some Bay Area, Greater Los Angeles Basin, and San Diego campuses may have more than one partner. Campuses seeking more than one high school partner should feel free to provide additional information to Dr. Hirano-Nakanishi.

In late February/early March 2003, we will be convening systemwide meetings in northern and southern California to provide details about the first pilot administration of the Early Assessment tests and to discuss the kinds of pilot studies and programs that you and your K-12 colleagues may offer.

High schools will be receiving packets from the California Department of Education with instructions for signing up for Golden State Examinations at the end of this week. In early February, high schools will be registering classes on-line for these examinations. This is their only opportunity to register classes for the Golden State Examinations.

1. CAPI English faculty should be sure that CAPI eleventh-grade English language arts teachers-partners are encouraged to register their classes for the Golden State Examinations (GSEs) in Reading/Literature (reduced to 45 minutes) and in Written Composition (reduced to 45 minutes). Once the class is registered for the GSEs, students in the class may, then, volunteer for the CSU Early Assessments; that is, to take the required 11<sup>th</sup> grade CST in English language arts, as well as the two GSEs.
2. CAPI mathematics faculty should be sure that CAPI teachers-partners now providing Algebra 2, trigonometry (if required to take the High School Mathematics CST), or math analysis (if required to take the High School Mathematics CST) instruction are encouraged to register their classes for the Golden State Examination (GSE) in High School Mathematics. Once the class is registered for the GSE, students in the classes may, then, volunteer for the CSU Early Assessments; that is, to take the required 11<sup>th</sup> grade CST in mathematics, as well as the GSE in High School Mathematics.
3. CAPI directors and academic affairs/provosts may wish to touch bases with CAPI high school partners to ensure that high school classes in mathematics and English language arts are registered for the GSEs in order to permit students in the class to volunteer to take the GSE and to participate in the CSU Early Assessment pilot project.

**Background**

Some background information may be useful for your review and for discussion with prospective partners. The California Standards Tests (CSTs) and Golden State Examinations (GSEs) will be administered as usual this spring. In addition, the CSU will be pilot testing the utility of CSTs augmented with GSEs for providing college-preparatory students and their teachers with an early assessment of student readiness for entry-level courses in mathematics and written composition in the CSU. Before the spring 2003 test administrations, a group including the Early Assessment consultants, the faculty assisting with the K-12 CST and GSE Content Review Panels, the ELM Committee, and the EPT Committee will meet to set preliminary cut-off scores on the Early Assessment tests. Information about CSU faculty involvement in the review and development of CST and GSE mathematics and English language arts tests and the process by which cut-off scores are determined will be shared at the North/South meetings.

Once the Early Assessment tests are administered, scored, and reported, high school teachers and CSU faculty partners will have the opportunity to improve the alignment of high school curricula and instruction and CSU entry-level expectations in mathematics and English language arts. For those college-bound students who do not meet expectations in the eleventh grade, Early Assessment should provide enough information to customize learning activities to improve their skills and knowledge during their senior year. For college-bound students who demonstrate proficiency, Early Assessment ultimately will mean that these students will not need to take CSU placement tests.

English Language Arts. All eleventh graders must take the 11<sup>th</sup> grade California Standards Test (CST) in English Language Arts. College-preparatory 11<sup>th</sup> graders who are interested in the early assessment will, in addition, sit for the Golden State Examination (GSE) in Written Composition (reduced to 45 minutes) and GSE in Reading/Literature (reduced to 45 minutes) in spring 2003. If these students apply for and are admitted to the CSU, they also will take the CSU's English Placement Test (EPT), unless exempt by the SAT I or other already authorized tests of exemption. We are asking students piloting the Early Assessment tests to sit for the EPT, so we can study the relationship between the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Early Assessment tests in English language arts and the EPT. Because we are assuming that the CSU campus and partner high school are providing support even to students who demonstrate proficiency on the Early Assessment tests, during this pilot cycle, students who score above the preliminary Early Assessment cutoff in English Language Arts and who are admitted to the CSU will be permitted to enroll in entry-level General Education composition classes, regardless of their scores on the EPT and other tests of exemption.

Mathematics. Eleventh graders taking Algebra 2 are required to take the Algebra 2 California Standards Test (CST). Eleventh graders who completed Algebra 2 last year are required to take the High School Mathematics Test. Along with sitting for the Algebra 2 or High School Mathematics CST, eleventh graders interested in the early

assessment will sit for the Golden State Examination (GSE) in High School Mathematics in spring 2003. If these students apply for and are admitted to the CSU, they also will take the California State University's Elementary Level Mathematics test, unless exempt by the SAT I or other already authorized tests of exemption. We are asking students piloting the Early Assessment tests to sit for the ELM, so we can study the relationship between the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Early Assessment tests in high school mathematics and the ELM. Because we are assuming that the CSU campus and partner high school are providing support even to students who demonstrate proficiency on the Early Assessment tests, during this pilot cycle, students who score above the preliminary Early Assessment cutoff in mathematics and who are admitted the CSU will be permitted to enroll in entry-level General Education mathematics courses, regardless of their scores on the ELM and other tests of exemption.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Early Assessment project and issues discussed in this memorandum, please contact Assistant Vice Chancellor Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, [mhirano-nakanishi@calstate.edu](mailto:mhirano-nakanishi@calstate.edu), 562-951-4767. Questions about senior-year experiences may be directed to Assistant Vice Chancellor Allison Jones at [ajones@calstate.edu](mailto:ajones@calstate.edu), 562-951-4744.

DSS/mjhn