August 10, 2006

Dear High School and Unified District Superintendents, County Superintendents, and Charter High School Administrators:

Re: Early Assessment Program Results and Follow-Up for 2006

A Request

On behalf of the California State University (CSU), I write to ask for your continued support of the Early Assessment Program (EAP) by encouraging your District Testing Coordinators, Principals and Counselors to distribute EAP results in a timely manner once they are received in your offices.

I ask also that you encourage your counseling staff to take this opportunity to identify students who need additional work in English and/or mathematics, and to provide them in their 12th grade class schedules with the additional learning they need to bring their skills up to a college-ready level. That is a recipe for work force success. It is also a recipe for college success, as students who choose to attend the CSU show proficiency on CSU English and mathematics placement tests.

EAP Results

The EAP results will be sent to your district by August 15th. The Educational Testing Service is working hard to ensure these results are sent within the same window in which you receive your CST results.

This year, your district testing offices will receive two reports of EAP results for each student who took the exam. We encourage you to send one report to the student’s home at the same time as, or within three days of, sending your students’ CST results. The second report should be filed in the student’s high school file.

Background

In collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the State Board of Education (SBE), the CSU developed the EAP to provide students, their families, and high schools the opportunity to assess eleventh grade student readiness for college-level English and mathematics. Spring 2006 marked the third year in which the EAP was administered to students enrolled in the eleventh grade.

Students who were eligible to take the eleventh grade CST in English-language arts were encouraged to volunteer for the EAP English assessment; and students who were eligible for the CSTs in Algebra II and/or Summative High School Mathematics were encouraged to take the voluntary EAP mathematics augmentation to the CST.
The gratifying rate at which eligible students volunteered to take the EAP assessments shows that they and their families clearly value the EAP assessment. For spring 2005, a total of 69 percent of all eligible eleventh grade students completed the EAP mathematics questions, and a total of 46 percent of eligible eleventh grade students completed both the EAP objective questions in English and the EAP written essay. Spring 2006 data will be available in mid September.

Additional EAP Resources: New Courses and Continuing Professional Development

Responding to requests from the CDE and high schools, CSU faculty, working with college and high school English faculty and reading experts, have developed a curriculum for a twelfth grade Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC). ERWC is aligned with the English-language arts content standards and consists of lessons based on both non-fiction and fiction texts. It fulfills the “B” requirement of the University of California/CSU (A-G) college preparatory course pattern. ERWC may be used by the high school as a full, one-year course, or certain of its fourteen modules may be integrated into existing twelfth grade English classes. The CSU, in collaboration with the county offices of education, provides professional development programs for high school English teachers who wish to use the twelfth grade Expository Reading and Writing Course as well as for high school mathematics teachers.

In addition to formal courses in twelfth grade, students who need additional instruction in English and mathematics should be informed about CSU English Success and Math Success websites. These websites provide on-line tutorials, practice problems, and general advice on how to strengthen students’ English and mathematics skills. These sites may be accessed at www.csumathsuccess.org and www.csuenglishsuccess.org.

If you have any questions regarding the EAP please visit the CSU EAP Website at http://www.calstate.edu/eap, or contact Carolina C. Cardenas, Associate Director, Academic Outreach and Early Assessment, CSU Office of the Chancellor, at (562) 951-4724 or by e-mail at eapmail@calstate.edu. You may also contact the EAP coordinator at the CSU campus nearest you. A listing of coordinators may be found at http://www.calstate.edu/eap/documents/eap_roster.pdf.

Thank you for your continued support of these collaborative efforts. The California State University embraces its mission of helping you to prepare California high school students for success in higher education and in California’s workforce.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Charles B. Reed
Chancellor

cc:  Dr. Gary Reichard, Executive Vice Chancellor/Chief Academic Officer
     Dr. Keith Boyum, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
     Mr. Allison Jones, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
     CSU EAP Coordinators
     High School Counselors