

September 13, 2011

TO: Charles Weis, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Edith Mourtos, Chief Academic Officer, Educational Services Branch
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SUBJECT: Student Preparation for College Using the Early Assessment Program

Santa Clara County Office of Education's Assessment and Accountability Department prepared the following analysis of the latest results of the voluntary Early Assessment Program (EAP) tests that were recently released by the California State University (CSU). A total of 16,808 11th grade students in SCC completed the 2011 EAP test in English, with 32 percent of these students being deemed "ready for college". This is a three percentage-point increase over 2010, when 29 percent of SCC 11th grade students were on track to be college ready in English upon graduation from high school. Table 1 shows how students in SCC compared to students Statewide in EAP English in 2011.

Table 1: Comparison of SCC and CA Student Performance on the EAP English Test, 2010

SCC	32% of EAP testers are ready for college-level English	Figure 1
CA	23% of EAP testers are ready for college-level English	Figure 1
Highest performing district in SCC	Fremont Union High School District 57% of EAP testers are ready for college-level English	Figure 1

In mathematics, 68 percent of the 9,565 students in SCC who took the 2011 EAP test demonstrated full or conditional college readiness. Table 2 shows a comparison of SCC and Statewide student performance in EAP Math in 2011.

Table 2: Comparison of SCC and CA Student Performance on the EAP Math Test, 2010

SCC	68% of EAP testers are fully or conditionally ready for college-level Math	Figure 2
CA	58% of EAP testers are fully or conditionally ready for college-level Math	Figure 2
Highest performing district in SCC	Palo Alto Unified School District 86% of EAP testers are fully or conditionally ready for college-level Math	Figure 2

The number of SCC students in grade eleven who took the EAP tests increased for the sixth year in a row. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of students taking EAP English increased 43 percent (from 11,790 to 16,808), and the number taking EAP Math increased 37 percent (from 6,963 to 9,565). Statewide, the number of 11th grade students taking EAP English has increased 23 percent (from 312,167 to 382,917) over the last six years, and the number taking EAP Math has increased 39 percent (from 137,067 to 190,917) during the same time period.

Created in 2006, the EAP is a collaborative effort between the CSU, the California Department of Education, and the California State Board of Education to ensure that the state's college-bound high school seniors are college ready in the critically important content areas of English and mathematics. When students take the grade eleven California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English and in either Algebra II or Summative High School Mathematics, the students may also complete a brief set of optional multiple-choice questions and a writing exercise that are part of the EAP. Students who score high enough on the EAP test can receive exemptions from being required to take CSU English and Math placement tests given to entering freshman. By receiving results prior to their final year of high school, students can make better use of their senior year to prepare them for college. Students taking the EAP tests can opt to authorize the release of their EAP test results to the CSU or California Community Colleges (CCC) for use in placement decisions.

Figure 1: 2011 Percent of EAP Testers Ready for College-Level English

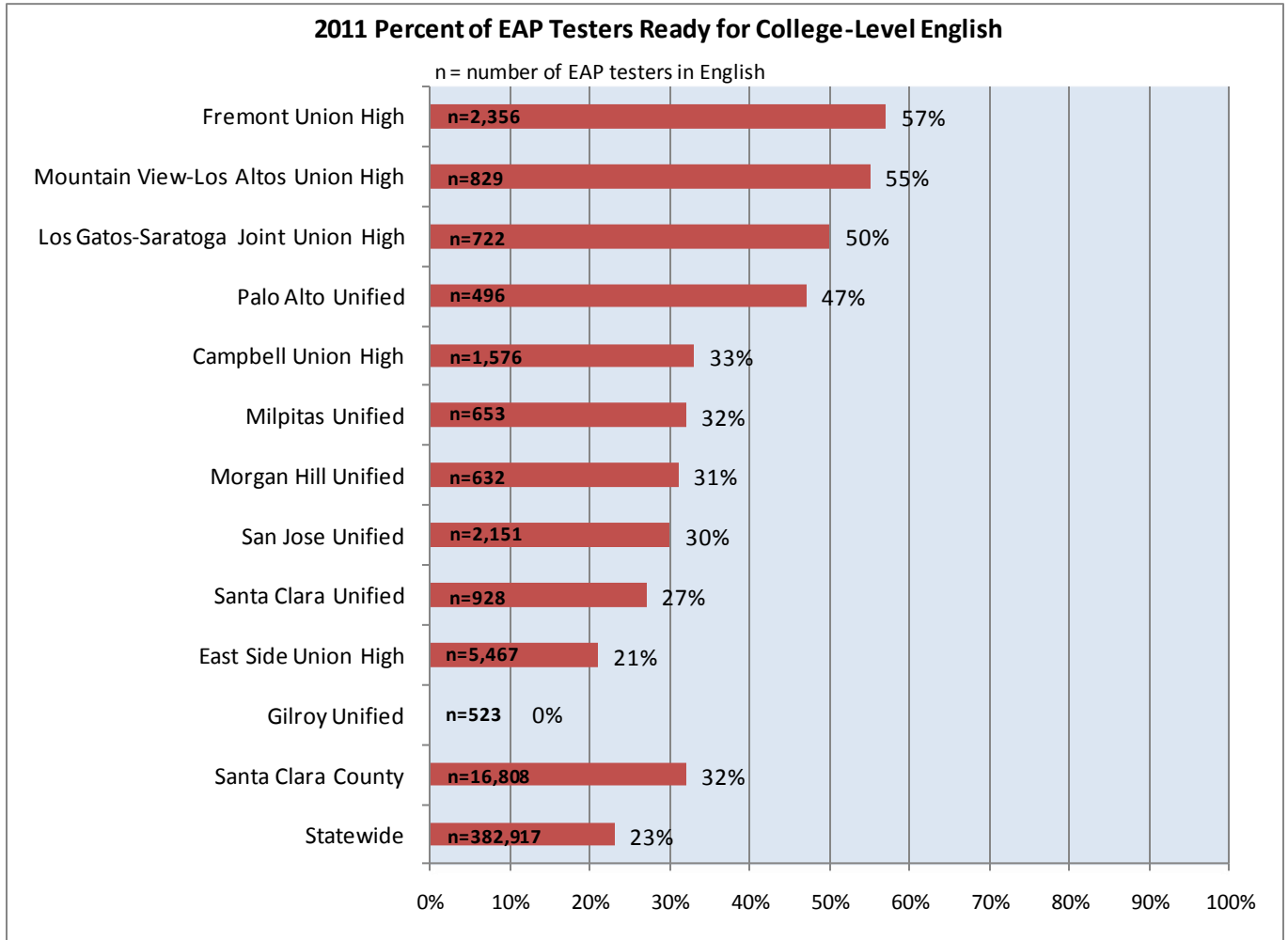


Figure 2: 2011 Percent of EAP Testers Ready for College-Level Math

