

May 23, 2016

Dear Accountability Coordinators:

2016 Participation Rate for Accountability Progress Report

This letter is to provide you with updated information regarding the 2015–16 participation rate requirement for accountability purposes. All schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to meet a **95 percent participation rate target** for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. The California Standards Tests (CST) for Science currently administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 10 will not be used for accountability purposes. Therefore, a percent participation rate for CST Science will not be calculated for accountability purposes.

How is the Participation Rate Calculated?

The **denominator** includes all students who were enrolled during a school's testing window. The **numerator** includes all enrolled students who participated in the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC) or the California Alternate Assessment (CAA).

To be counted as a "participant" for the SBAC, a student must have at least logged onto both the computer adaptive test (CAT) and performance task (PT) for each content area.

To be counted as a "participant" for the CAA, a student must have at least logged on.

Testing Window

For the 2015–16 academic year, the minimum testing window requirement was set at 25 instructional days. The testing windows for each school and LEA were already pre-selected with Educational Testing Services (ETS) before testing began.

For accountability purposes, a school's testing window begins on the first day of the pre-selected testing schedule and ends on the last day of the pre-selected testing schedule.

Grace Periods

Because students transfer in and out during a school's testing window, two grace periods were developed to hold schools harmless for not administering the tests to certain transferring students.

The first grace period is given to schools at the beginning of the testing window. Students that transfer out of a school during the **first 14 Calendar Days** of testing will not be included in the participation rate calculation.

The second grace period is given to schools at the end of the testing window. Students that transfer into a school during the **last 14 Calendar Days** of testing will not be included in the participation rate calculation if the students have not completed testing.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the AAU by phone at 916-319-0863 or by e-mail at aau@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jenny Singh, Education Research and Evaluation Administrator
Academic Accountability Unit

JS:dc