



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
August 22, 2012

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Exit Exam 2012: Higher scores, narrowing gap

SAN JOSE, CA – An analysis of the 2011-12 California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) shows that Santa Clara County students overall continue to outperform their statewide counterparts, and that demographic subgroups have shown a steady, gradual improvement in performance since the test first was instituted. The achievement gap between lower- and higher-performing subgroups has shown a corresponding decrease over that span.

However, the analysis—by the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s Assessment and Accountability Department—also shows that the county’s Hispanic students slightly underperform their statewide counterparts on the test. Hispanic students make up nearly 40 percent of the county’s student K-12 population.

The CAHSEE is administered each year to ensure that students who graduate from public high schools demonstrate grade level competency in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Among the highlights of the analysis:

--Grade 10 Asian and white subgroups in the county are performing at or near the ceiling of performance for both the English-language arts and mathematics portions of the test. In 2012, county Asian grade 10 students passed the ELA portion at a rate of 95 percent, and the mathematics portion at a rate of 98 percent. Among white students in grade 10, the passage rates were 95 percent for ELA and 94 percent for math.

--Since 2005, the gap in scores between white and Hispanic subgroups in the county has narrowed by eight percentage points on the English/language arts portion of the test, and by 10 percentage points in math. Over that same span, white students’ scores climbed by three points on both tests.

--Although the county’s subgroups outperform most of their counterparts statewide, Hispanic and Filipino students scored slightly lower on both parts of the test than their statewide counterparts.

A link to the complete SCCOE analysis of the results can be found at www.sccoe.org.

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