



California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Overview

In order to graduate from high school in California, the state requires that students pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), in both Mathematics and English Language Arts. The purpose of the CAHSEE is to ensure that students who graduate from public high schools are able to demonstrate grade-level competency in reading, writing, and mathematics. The CAHSEE can also help schools identify students early on who may need additional support in some of these areas.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is on the test?

A: The CAHSEE includes a **Mathematics** section and an **English Language Arts** section which includes a written essay. The math section covers content from 6th and 7th grade through Algebra 1, including: statistics, data analysis and probability, number sense, measurement and geometry, mathematical reasoning, and algebra. The English Language Arts section will cover content through 10th grade level English, including: vocabulary, decoding, comprehension, analysis of information and literary texts, writing strategies, applications, and the conventions of English (e.g. grammar, spelling, and punctuation).

Q: What score is needed to pass the CAHSEE?

A: Scores on the CAHSEE can range from 270 to 450. Students must successfully pass both the Math and English Language Arts sections in order to fulfill the CAHSEE requirement for graduation. *A score of 350 or higher is needed for a student to pass each section of the CAHSEE.* If a student passes both sections of the CAHSEE, they will not have to retake the CAHSEE again.

Q: What happens if a student does not pass the CAHSEE?

A: All students in OUSD will have an opportunity to take the CAHSEE for the first time in 10th grade. If a student does not pass both sections of the CAHSEE on their first attempt, they will be able to retake the section(s) of the CAHSEE they did not pass. *For example*, if a student only passes the math section of the CAHSEE the first time, they will only have to re-take the English Language Arts section the next time they re-take the test, they will not have to take the math section again.

Q: How many opportunities will a student have to take/retake the CAHSEE?

A: Students will be able to take the CAHSEE once in their 10th grade year; they will be offered a makeup test if they are absent for the original test date. Students will have 2 additional opportunities to take the CAHSEE in 11th grade and 3 additional opportunities to take the CAHSEE in 12th grade. Students will have approximately 6 total opportunities to take the CAHSEE if needed.

Q: Are there any exceptions or accommodations for students with disabilities?

A: Students who have a disability or special needs that receive regular accommodations in school may qualify for testing accommodations and/or exception from the CAHSEE requirement for graduation. *For example*, some students may be eligible for a large print version of the test or



directions from an audio CD. If you are interested in learning about accommodations or exceptions, please contact someone at your/your student's school site.

Q: Are there any exceptions or accommodations for English Language Learners?

A: English Language Learners are required to pass the CAHSEE in order to graduate from high school. These students may be allowed certain test variations if they regularly receive variations in classes. *For example*, some English Language Learners may be permitted to hear directions in their primary language. If you are interested in learning about variations for English Language Learners, please contact someone at your/your student's school site.

Q: What can I do now to prepare for the CAHSEE?

A: In addition to the support programs mentioned below, here are a few things you can do to be prepared for the CAHSEE:

1. Always attend school and attend all your classes
2. Pay attention in class to the material that is being covered
3. Do your homework and do your best on all tests
4. If there is something covered in class that you do not understand, ask questions or go to your teacher for help. Your teacher is there to help you!

Additional Resources & Supports for Passing the CAHSEE

1. Some schools offer CAHSEE support classes in math and English language arts during the regular school year. Students may select a class specifically for the section they have not passed. Ask at your/your student's school about CAHSEE support classes.
2. CAHSEE support classes may be offered during summer school in OUSD. Ask at your/your student's school about taking a CAHSEE support class over the summer.
3. CAHSEE study guides and preparation books can be useful in passing the test. Practice questions can be found online at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>. CAHSEE preparation books may also be found at your local high school library, your neighborhood public library, or a bookstore.
4. Revolution Prep is a free online program that helps students practice their test-taking skills for the CAHSEE. Ask at your/your students' school about Revolution Prep offerings.

If you have any additional questions about the California High School Exit Exam, you can visit the California Department of Education Website, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/> or speak to a staff member at your/your student's school