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February 2010

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, High School Principals, College and High School Counselors and Career Center Directors, and Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers:

2010 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In the next few months, California public school students will participate in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Embedded in the STAR Program for grade eleven students is the Early Assessment Program (EAP). The EAP essay will be administered in March 2010. Our offices have written a letter addressed to grade eleven students encouraging them to complete the EAP and to authorize the release of their EAP results to California State University (CSU) and/or California Community Colleges (CCC). We are asking for your support to ensure that this letter is distributed to each grade eleven student and that you encourage these students to participate in the EAP during the spring administration of the California Standards Tests (CSTs).

Developed in collaboration with the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the CSU, the EAP is a voluntary program designed to provide students, their families, and high schools with early signals about students' readiness for college-level English and mathematics. We are pleased to report that in spring 2009, approximately 82 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in English and 77 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in mathematics. Grade eleven students who are eligible to take the Algebra II or the Summative High School Mathematics CST may participate in the EAP mathematics test. In addition, due to a new law allowing California's Community Colleges to use student EAP results for placement, community colleges are now a part of the EAP.

The EAP identifies a student's need for additional preparation in these areas while still enrolled in high school. Students will then have the opportunity to enroll in English and/or mathematics classes that will include additional instruction during their senior year to prepare for placement exams necessary at CSUs and CCCs. Students deemed Math-Conditional will need to take a math class with a pre-requisite of Algebra II and earn a "c" or better in the senior year in order to keep the math exemption. Students can also access online college prep tools from the CSU English Success Web site at <http://www.csuenglishsuccess.org/> and the CSU Math Success Web site at