

California Curriculum Matrix Summary

English Language Arts

The California Content Standards, English Language Arts curriculum, includes standards and benchmarks in grades 2-11 assessed by the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program for the California Standards Tests, and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Beginning with the class of 2006, all students are required to pass the CAHSEE to receive a high school diploma.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to assessments was obtained from the California State Department of Education Web Site. Blueprints for each Criterion-Referenced Test can be accessed at this site. Each blueprint reveals the level of representation given on the test to each STAR and CAHSEE standard and benchmark. The English Language Arts priority designations for the STAR program were determined by first calculating the mean for the number of items tested (2.6). Secondly, the standard deviation (2.5) was returned and subtracted from the mean. Therefore, objectives that were aligned to only one test item (approximately one standard deviation below the mean) were given a Medium (M) priority designation. Objectives aligned with more than 1 test item were given a High (H) priority designation. Objectives that were not tested or were listed with an “NA” were given a Low (L) designation.

The English Language Arts priority designations for the CAHSEE were determined by first calculating the mean for the number of items tested (3.2). Secondly, the standard deviation (2.3) was returned and subtracted from the mean. Therefore, objectives that were aligned to only one test item (approximately one standard deviation below the mean) were given a Medium (M) priority designation. Objectives aligned with more than 1 test item were given a High (H) priority designation. Objectives that were not tested were given a Low (L) designation.

English language arts summary data are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. English Language Arts STAR/CAHSEE Data Summary.

English LA	# Standards	# Benchmarks	STAR CA Standards Tests			NESS*		
			H	M	L	H 1-19	M 20-38	L 39-50
Grade 2	8	47	25	5	17	34	9	4
Grade 3	8	51	23	9	19	37	9	5
Grade 4	8	53	21	10	22	35	13	5
Grade 5	8	43	21	5	17	26	12	5
Grade 6	8	51	22	8	21	30	16	5
Grade 7	8	46	24	4	18	28	14	4

	# Standards	# Benchmarks	STAR CA Standards Tests			NESS*		
Grade 8	8	49	26	1	22	32	14	3
Grade 9	8	63	24	10	29	36	22	5
Grade 10	8	63	25	9	29	36	21	6
Grade 11	8	55	23	3	29	34	17	4
CAHSEE	6	45	28	0	17	23	20	2

Mathematics

The California Content Standards, Mathematics curriculum, includes standards and benchmarks in grades 2-12 assessed by the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program for the California Standards Tests, and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Beginning with the class of 2006, all students are required to pass the CAHSEE to receive a high school diploma.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to assessments was obtained from the California State Department of Education Web Site. Blueprints for each Criterion-Referenced Test can be accessed at this site. Each blueprint reveals the level of representation given on the test to each STAR and CAHSEE standard and benchmark. The Math priority designations for the STAR program, *elementary grades*, were determined by first calculating the mean for the number of items tested (1.9). Secondly, the standard deviation (1.5) was returned and subtracted from the mean. Therefore, objectives that were aligned to only one test item (approximately one standard deviation below the mean) were given a Medium (M) priority designation. Objectives aligned with more than 1 test item were given a High (H) priority designation. Objectives that were not tested were given a Low (L) designation.

The Math priority designations for the STAR program, secondary grades, were determined by first calculating the mean for the number of items tested (2.5). Secondly, the standard deviation (2.1) was returned and subtracted from the mean. Therefore, objectives that were aligned to only one test item (approximately one standard deviation below the mean) were given a Medium (M) priority designation. Objectives aligned with more than 1 test item were given a High (H) priority designation. Objectives that were not tested were given a Low (L) designation.

The Math priority designations for the CAHSEE were determined by first calculating the mean for the number of items tested (3.2). Secondly, the standard deviation (2.3) was returned and subtracted from the mean. Therefore, objectives that were aligned to only one test item (approximately one standard deviation below the mean) were given a Medium (M) priority designation. Objectives aligned with more than 1 test item were given a High (H) priority designation. Objectives that were not tested were given a Low (L) designation.

Mathematics summary data are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Mathematics STAR/CAHSEE Data Summary.

	# Standards	# Benchmarks	STAR CA Standards Tests			NESS*		
			H	M	L	H 1-16	M 17-42	L 43-70
Mathematics								
Grade 2	14	35	32	0	3	23	11	1
Grade 3	11	49	47	0	2	38	11	0
Grade 4	14	55	48	6	1	38	15	2
Grade 5	9	38	35	3	0	27	10	1
Grade 6	13	50	39	6	5	40	10	0
Grade 7	13	55	45	9	1	36	16	3
Grade 7 General Math Standards Test	13	41	41	0	0	28	11	2
Algebra I	29	-	28	1	0	16	7	6
Algebra II	29	-	25	3	1	7	14	8
Geometry	22	-	21	1	0	15	6	1
High School Math Standards Test	45	-	45	0	0	18	16	11
Integrated I	28	-	27	0	1	18	8	2
Integrated II	32	-	28	4	0	15	13	4
Integrated III	26	-	23	3	0	7	10	9
CAHSEE	19	98	53	0	45	58	29	11

Science

The California Content Standards, Science curriculum, includes standards and benchmarks in grades 4-12 assessed by the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program for the California Standards Tests.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to assessments was obtained from the California State Department of Education Web Site. Blueprints for each Criterion-Referenced Test can be accessed at this site. Each blueprint reveals the level of representation given on the test to each STAR standard and benchmark.

The Science priority designations for the STAR program were determined by first calculating the mean for the number of items tested (1.38). Secondly, the standard deviation (0.81) was returned and

subtracted from the mean. Therefore, objectives that were aligned to only one test item (approximately one standard deviation below the mean) were given a Medium (M) priority designation. Objectives aligned with more than 1 test item were given a High (H) priority designation. Objectives that were not tested were given a Low (L) designation.

Science summary data are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Science STAR Data Summary.

	# Standards	# Benchmarks	STAR CA Standards Tests			NESS*		
			H	M	L	H 1-32	M 33-50	L 51-85
Science								
Grade 4 Tested--Grade 5	6	25	25	0	0	16	3	6
Grade 5	6	38	35	0	3	28	5	5
Grade 6	7	36	Not tested	Not tested	Not tested	15	5	16
Grade 7	7	45	Not tested	Not tested	Not tested	25	13	7
Grade 8	9	46	46	0	0	31	1	14
Grade 10 Life Science Standards Test	20	54	54	0	0	35	16	3
High School Biology/Life Sciences	11	81	62	2	17	49	20	12
High School Chemistry	12	87	55	5	27	31	11	45
High School Earth Sciences	10	60	49	0	11	17	17	26
High School Physics	6	63	48	0	15	23	25	15
High School Integrated 1	13	62	54	0	8	19	25	18
High School Integrated 2	14	70	57	0	13	34	15	21
High School Integrated 3	18	76	54	0	22	39	13	24
High School Integrated 4	18	83	49	7	27	31	24	28

Totals for California STAR Tested English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Table 4 presents the number of STAR benchmarks compared to the number of STAR benchmarks tested in the STAR tests.

Table 4. Total Percentage for all STAR Tested Grade Levels in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

	# Standards/ Benchmarks	# Standards/ Benchmarks Tested	% Standards/ Benchmarks Tested
English LA	521	298	57%
Mathematics	362	349	96%
Science	481	327	68%
TOTAL	1,364	974	71%

References

California Department of Education

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/>

California Curriculum and Instruction/Content Standards

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/>

California STAR Blueprints

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprints.asp>

CAHSEE Blueprints

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>

***NESS (National Essential Skills Survey)** in the preceding subject summary charts refers to the *International Center for Leadership in Education's* 2007 national survey, a forced-ranking by approximately 13,000 adults of the proficiencies deemed most important for high school graduates in each of English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

- English Language Arts proficiencies ranked 1-19 were assigned a High (H) rating; items ranked 20-38 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 39-50 were assigned a Low (L) rating.
- Math proficiencies ranked 1-16 were assigned a High (H) rating; items ranked 17-42 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 43-70 were assigned a Low (L) rating.
- Science proficiencies ranked 1-32 were assigned a High (H) rating; items marked 33-50 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 51-85 were assigned a Low (L) rating.

Where English Language Arts, Math, and Science proficiencies overlapped across indicators in other subjects (for example an English Language Arts proficiency within a Science indicator), the rating of H, M, or L was designated to the proficiency in the subject of focus. A complete description of the *National Essential Skills Survey* is provided elsewhere in this resource kit.

