

# Overview of California's Academic Content Standards and Assessments

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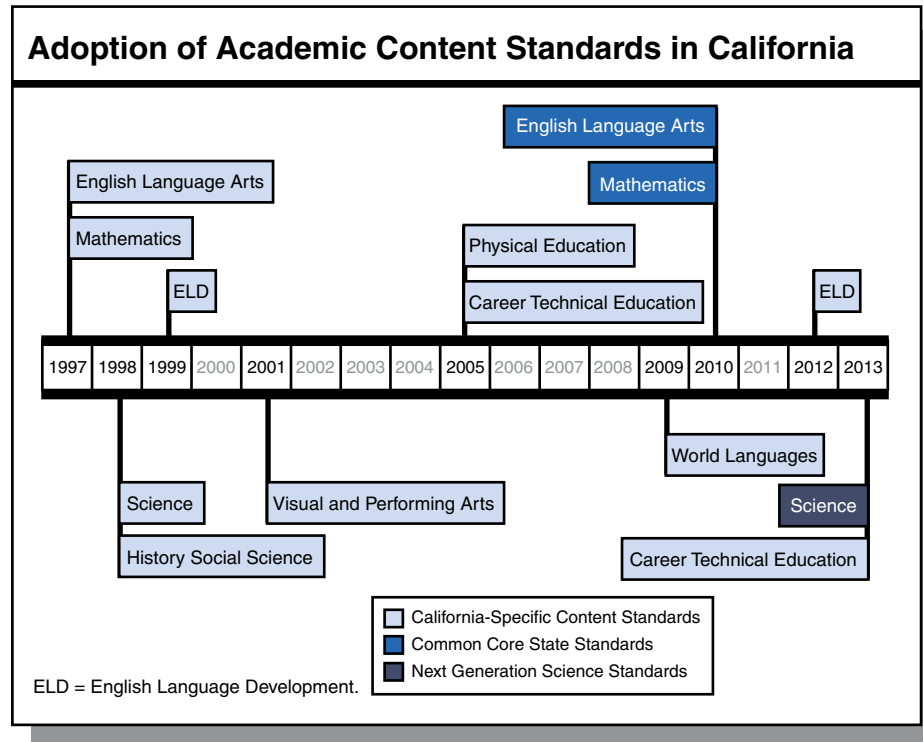
LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

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Hon. Al Muratsuchi, Chair





# Timeline of Standards Adoption in California





## Assessments Aligned to Original Standards

### California Standards Tests (CSTs) Taken by Most Students

Standard	Grade-Level Exams	End-of-Course Exams <sup>a</sup>
<b>English Language Arts</b>	2 through 11 <sup>b</sup>	None.
<b>Mathematics</b>	2 through 7	Algebra; Geometry; Algebra II; Integrated Mathematics 1, 2, and 3; General Mathematics; High School Summative Mathematics.
<b>Science</b>	5, 8, 10	Biology; Chemistry; Earth Science; Physics; Integrated/Coordinated Science 1, 2, 3, and 4.
<b>History Social Science</b>	8, 11	World History.

<sup>a</sup> Primarily designed to test middle and high school students in specific subject areas.  
<sup>b</sup> As part of the English language arts CST, students take a writing exam in grades 4 and 7.

### Alternative Assessments for Students With Disabilities

- California Modified Assessment (CMA) for students whose disabilities preclude them from achieving proficiency on CSTs even with test-taking accommodations.
- California Alternate Performance Assessment for students with severe cognitive disabilities.

### Assessment to Determine English Language Proficiency

- California English Language Development Test used to (1) assess the English language proficiency of incoming students and determine if they should be classified as English Learners (ELs) and (2) track progress of ELs in subsequent years.



## Assessments Aligned to Original Standards *(Continued)*

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### **Standards-Based Tests in Spanish**

- Assessments in Spanish aligned to 1997 English Language Arts (ELA) and math standards.
- Required for Spanish-speaking students receiving instruction in Spanish or enrolled in school in the United States less than one year.



## **Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in ELA and Math**

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### **Standards Developed by Group of State Leaders**

- Developed by National Governor's Association and Council of Chief State School Officers, in consultation with education experts.
- Intended to better prepare all students for college and career.
- Final standards released in June 2010.



### **State Created Commission to Determine if California Should Adopt CCSS**

- CCSS subsequently adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in August 2010.



### **CCSS Have Been Adopted by 45 States and District of Columbia**



## **New Assessments Aligned to CCSS**

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### **California Part of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)**

- Consists of California and 22 other states.
- Received \$330 million federal funding to develop assessments aligned to the CCSS.
- SBAC assessments will be administered by member states in 2014-15.
- Beginning 2014-15, SBAC will charge fees to member states to cover ongoing development costs. Individual states will pay costs directly for administration, scoring, and reporting of assessments.



### **Assessments Will Be Computer-Based**

- Will use computer-adaptive technology that adjusts next test item based on whether student answered previous item correctly.
- Includes performance tasks that will require students to review source materials, answer short-response questions, and write a long essay.
- For first three years, districts have option of administering a paper-and-pencil version.



## **ELA and Math Assessments in 2013-14**

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- SBAC Field Tests to Replace ELA and Math CSTs and CMAs**
  - Five percent of students will take a sample of questions and complete one performance task in either ELA or math. The remaining 95 percent of students will take an exam of comparable total length but with a sample of both ELA and math questions as well as a performance task in one subject.
  - No paper-and-pencil version of the field test will be available.
  
- School Accountability Systems Temporarily Suspended**
  - Because the field test is intended to determine the quality of the assessment, none of the results will be reported.
  - As a result, schools will have virtually no ELA or math scores for state and federal accountability purposes.
  - The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) has discretion not to calculate an Academic Performance Index (API) score in 2013-14 and 2014-15 if the lack of data compromises API results.



## Other Changes to Standards and Assessments

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- State Adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in September 2013**
  - Standards developed by a group of 26 states and various national science organizations. Standards finalized in March 2013, adopted by SBE in September 2013. The SPI is required to make recommendations to the SBE regarding the development of assessments aligned to the NGSS.
  
- History Social Science Exams Eliminated**
  - Standards remain in place, but history social science CSTs eliminated beginning in 2013-14.
  
- New English Language Development (ELD) Standards Adopted**
  - SBE adopted new ELD standards aligned to CCSS in November 2012. State must now develop a new assessment aligned to the new standards.
  
- New Primary Language Exams to Be Developed**
  - SPI required to develop new assessments in languages other than English aligned with the ELA CCSS for use no later than 2016-17.
  
- SPI to Submit Plan for Future of Other Exams**
  - Must consult with stakeholders and submit recommendations to SBE by March 1, 2016 regarding whether state should add assessments in other subject areas or add supplemental exams in ELA, math, and science.