

GETTING READY FOR STAR TESTING

How Can I Help My Student?

- ◆ Make sure your student is well rested. Studies show most students perform their best with 10 hours of sleep.
- ◆ Provide a healthy breakfast and send a good snack for testing.
- ◆ Make sure your student arrives to school on time.
- ◆ Make sure your student knows it's important to take the test seriously, follow the rules, and do her best..
- ◆ Ask your student each day about the testing.

How Do My Student's Scores Effect the School & District?

Schools are measured through the Accountability Progress Report. This includes three components.

- ◆ Academic Performance Index Report - API
- ◆ Adequate Yearly Progress Report - AYP
- ◆ Program Improvement Report - PI

WHAT IS STAR TESTING?

California uses the California Standards Test (CST) to determine how well students are achieving California content standards. These standards describe the knowledge and skills that students should learn at each grade.

Questions for all of the CSTs, except for the writing tasks in grades four and seven, are in a multiple-choice format. Students are presented with a question and asked to select the correct answer from four possible choices. Released CST questions from prior admini-

strations are posted for public viewing at www.startest.org.

Students are tested on specific subject areas depending on their grade level.

Grades 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7
English-language Arts
Mathematics

Grade 5
English-language Arts
Mathematics
Science

Grades 8, 9, 10, and 11
English-language Arts
Mathematics
Science
History-Social Science

UNDERSTANDING THE THREE PARTS OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRESS REPORT

API A school's API is a number that ranges from 200 to 1000 and is calculated from the results for each school's students performance on statewide tests. The state has set 800 as the API target. Schools that fall short of 800 are required to meet annual growth targets until that goal is achieved.

AYP This report shows how well schools and school districts are meeting common standards of academic performance. Targets increase almost yearly until 2014, when all schools must have 100% of their students performing at or above the proficient level on statewide tests. There are four requirements for making AYP: percent of students participating on tests, percent of students scoring proficient on English-Language Arts and Math, API, & Graduation Rate.

PI A School or District that receives Title 1 funds and does not make AYP two years in a row in the same area, are identified Program Improvement.