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The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Summary Data for Solano County

State test results are in for Solano County students. For the past several weeks, districts across the state received embargoed access to the testing results allowing districts time to process and analyze student data. Smarter Balanced assessment is part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) which is a comprehensive system to support academic improvement focused on narrowing the achievement gap between student groups and preparing them to be career or college ready beyond high school. The assessments also include the California Science Test (CST) piloted last spring, and the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for students demonstrating significant cognitive disabilities.

“The Smarter Balanced test results show that our school districts have consolidated the academic achievement gains demonstrated in 2015-16. Our districts are tackling the challenge of determining which instructional strategies have been effective in advancing students academically and putting systems into place that will support continuous improvement,” says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

English Language Arts Smarter Balanced test results for 2017 show that 43 percent of Solano County students met or exceeded standards for their grade level compared to 44 percent in 2016. In Math 33 percent of the students met or exceeded the standards for their grade in 2017, compared to 32 percent in 2016. The percentage of students for English Language Arts and Math falling in each of the performance categories (Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met) was relatively unchanged from 2016.

The CAASPP system was adopted by the State Board of Education in 2014 as one of the first components of the new accountability model to measure student knowledge and performance. Schoolwide and districtwide results help in identifying areas that need to be addressed to better support students’ readiness for college or career. The renewed emphasis on college and career readiness is a testament to a different concept of effectiveness among schools, one that is based on long-term student outcomes. While this is not an entirely new concept, it is now fully recognized as an essential element of success for the entire school system.

CAASPP results are not the only accountability measure for schools. The California School Dashboard features several additional indicators including: chronic absenteeism, suspension rate, English Learners' progress, graduation rate, and college and career readiness. This fall the state's new equity-focused accountability system will also include components from the California School Dashboard and the new statewide system to assist in supporting struggling schools.

As part of the new accountability model, the California School Dashboard will help in identifying the districts and schools statewide that need technical assistance to increase their effectiveness and improve student outcomes. The system of assistance is currently being developed by the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), created by the State Board of Education to aid educational agencies based on their performance. The Solano County Office of Education is collaborating with CCEE and other county offices to build a system of assistance that will support the needs of our districts.

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