



DAVIS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Services
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February 21, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

All public school districts in California have been mandated to participate each spring in the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program that assess all students in grades 2 through 11. The testing window for grade 2-11 students in core curricular areas is April 22, 2008 – May 19, 2008. Your child's school will notify you of any changes in the daily schedule. Additionally, there will be a writing assessment for student in grades 4 and 7 on March 4, 2007 (with make-ups occurring March 5) and the writing component of the Early Assessment Program will be offered in March for juniors.

It is anticipated that the STAR program, which is primarily based upon determining the extent to which students can demonstrate their knowledge of grade-level skills, will provide useful information for supporting individual student needs and for planning future educational programs. In late August or early September (EAP results will be available earlier), Parent/Guardians will receive a report that will explain how the child performed in each content area that was assessed during Spring 2008.

It is our hope that all students will take the STAR so that we are able to get an accurate assessment of student learning and program quality. Parent/guardians have the right to excuse their child or children from the STAR assessment. Such a request must come to your child's school in writing. If you intend to submit a parent waiver, please do so prior to testing so that we can plan accordingly. Please note however that the US Department of Education monitors the number of waivers submitted at individual schools. Schools that show a high percentage of waivers (above 5%), may become a Program Improvement (PI) School under No Child Left Behind. If a school becomes PI, specified sanctions are mandated.

If you would like additional information about the STAR program, I encourage you to access official STAR website: <http://star.cde.ca.gov/>

Additionally, California's grade-level standards may be found within the core curriculum frameworks at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/fr/>

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the STAR assessment process.

Sincerely yours,

Clark Bryant
Director, Curriculum and Instruction