

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Frequently Asked Questions

Who must take the test?

Current state law requires all students to pass the CAHSEE in English and math to earn a diploma. Students begin their first attempt as sophomores when the test is administered in early February.

What is a passing score?

Students must earn a 350 or higher on each portion of the test.

What if a student fails a portion of the test?

Students who do not pass both portions of the test as sophomores have two tries as juniors and four tries as seniors. Students reattempt only the portion that they fail.

What if a student has learning disabilities?

All students are required to pass both portions of the test to earn a diploma, even students who have documented disabilities. Modifications may however, be established in an IEP or 504, which allow the student to take the test with forms of support that directly relate to the disability.

Students on track for graduation who have passed the CAHSEE with a modification must have the modification approved by the Santa Cruz City Schools Board of Education for the scores to be recognized as valid.

How can I help my son/daughter prepare for this test?

Sophomores will be receiving preparation booklets for the test. We encourage you to review these materials with them. In addition, sample CAHSEE questions and essay prompts are available on the web at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>. This site provides sample English and math test questions, and essay prompts from previous exams. The correct answers are provided as well as essay responses demonstrating different levels of competency. In addition, please insist that your student get adequate sleep during the nights preceding the test and a healthy breakfast on the day of the test.

What if a student does not pass the CAHSEE?

Students may continue to attend AFE and earn a SCCS diploma up to two years after their initial targeted graduation date. Please be advised, all students must be enrolled in a minimum of four classes.

