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## **FUSD Students Improve Performance on State Assessment Tests**

**(Fremont, Ca., August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016)** – Students from the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD), as well as statewide, showed great improvement in the second year of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

Replacing the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) in 2015 as the new measurement for assessing student performance in English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Math, the CAASPP was given to students in grades 3-8 and 11 during the 2015–16 school year. The CAASPP contains a wider variety of questions than previous multiple-choice tests, and includes items that require students to explain how they solve a problem. The new tests allow students to demonstrate analytical writing, critical thinking and problem solving skills, along with their knowledge of facts in ELA and Math.

According to data released today by the California Department of Education, FUSD students improved on their performance from 2015. Highlights include:

- Overall, 75% of FUSD students (an increase of 4% from 2015) ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard in ELA/Literacy, compared to 55% for Alameda County and 49% for all of California. In Math, 71% of FUSD students (an increase of 1% from 2015) ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard, compared to 46% for Alameda County and 37% for all of California.
- The average scale score for all FUSD grade levels fell within the ‘Standard Met’ range in both ELA/Literacy and Math.
- FUSD’s percentage of students who ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard in ELA/Literacy increased at every grade level by at least two percentage points over 2015 with a high of 6% at the 4<sup>th</sup>-grade level.
- FUSD’s percentage of students who ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard in Math increased or remained the same at every grade level when compared to 2015.
- When compared to 2105, FUSD showed gains among Hispanic/Latino, Economically Disadvantaged and Students with Disability ‘Meeting/Exceeding’ the standard in both ELA/Literacy and Math.
- FUSD students also performed well among Area Achievement Level Descriptors, posting combined percentages of ‘Above/Near’ the standard in Listening (92%), Research/Inquiry (90%), Writing (89%) and Reading (85%).

**(more)**

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Board of Education

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“It is very encouraging to see across-the-board improvement of all FUSD students at all grade levels – as well as throughout Alameda County and all of California,” said FUSD Superintendent, Dr. Jim Morris. “I thank our teachers and staff for their tireless efforts in and out of the classroom, our parents for their continued support, and, of course, our students for their hard work and commitment. We will use the data provided to continue building on this positive momentum to create the highest level of achievement possible for our students.”

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced today that California students made significant progress in the second year of the CAASPP tests, with the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards increasing at every grade and in every student group. Nearly half the students tested met or exceeded standards in ELA/Literacy, and nearly four in ten met or exceeded standards in mathematics. These online tests, based on California’s challenging academic standards, ask students to write clearly, think critically, and solve complex problems, just as they will need to do in college and on the job.

“The higher test scores show that the dedication, hard work, and patience of California’s teachers, parents, school employees, and administrators are paying off. Together we are making progress towards upgrading our education system to prepare all students for careers and college in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” Torlakson said. “Of course there’s more work to do, but our system has momentum. I am confident that business, political and community leaders will join parents and educators to help continue supporting increased standards and resources for schools.”

The majority of reports for individual students were mailed to FUSD families in July. In addition, California provides a dedicated Web site, <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov>, where parents and the public can view and compare aggregated results among schools, districts, and counties along with statewide results.

The California Department of Education provides a wide range of tools to help parents, teachers and schools understand and use CAASPP results. These resources include <http://testscoreguide.org>, a new Web site that provides parents with grade-by-grade, subject-by-subject information at all levels of achievement; detailed online guides for parents and teachers to use in analyzing results; and practice tests at every grade level in English.

**About FUSD:** The Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) is made up of 42 schools serving nearly 35,000 students in grades K-12. With 14 National Merit Scholars and 11 California Gold Ribbon Schools in 2016, FUSD’s mission is to provide equitable opportunities to Educate, Challenge and Inspire students of all ages, talents and ability levels, while striving to prepare each with the skills required to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing world. FUSD is located in the City of Fremont, California, a thriving international community. Residents come from countries across the globe to call Fremont home. FUSD takes pride in its diversity, its community, and in its schools. Visit the District’s website at [www.fremont.k12.ca.us](http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) pages for more information.

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