Prior WrittenNotice of Change in California Department of Education State Testing for Alternate Testing formerly known as the California Alternate Performance Assessment

March 18, 2015

Dear Parent,

This notice is being sent to you due to a very important change in the California Department of Education’s Statewide Testing requirements for students who will be taking the Statewide Alternative Test formerly known as the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA).

As our State has transitioned from the California Content Standards to the Common Core State Standards our students who formerly took the CAPA will be participating in a field test for the newly developed California Alternate Assessment (CAA).

The CAA consists of three Tiers, or levels, that cover both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. There are 15 test items in each of the three Tiers. It is estimated that each Tier will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete. The CAA will be administered on a computer and your child will either input his/her answer choices into the computer and/or will be provided with assistance in inputting his/her answer choices into the computer.

Due to the fact that our State recently developed new standards in the area of Science, known as the Next Generation Science Standards, the CAA and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) do not yet have content in the area of Science. For this reason, students that are in 5th, 8th, or 10th grade who take either the CAA (Alternate Test) or the SBAC (Statewide Test that is not an Alternate Test), will also need to take either the California Standards Test (CST), California Modified Assessment (CMA), or the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) for Science only. Please refer to the Chart on the following page regarding the grade levels, content areas, and tests administered for more information.

Please be advised that for this year the CAA is a field test and test scores will not be generated. The test will be administered from April 15, 2015 through June 10, 2015.

As a reminder, on October 2, 2013, Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 484, which changed the Statewide Testing procedures in California. This change is part of California’s transition to the Common Core State Standards. California, along with 45 other States, will be implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in an effort to improve our students’ College and Career Readiness in our ever-changing global economy.

Under Federal Law, whenever a School District proposes or refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a child, or the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education, the parents must be given prior written notice within a reasonable amount of time. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District is providing this notice in accordance with the provisions of Federal Law, 34 Code of Federal Regulations Section 300.503 referred to as Prior Written Notice. This letter is written in response to the Statewide change in State Testing requirements from the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) to the California Alternate Assessment (CAA).

The following table indicates the State Test/s that your child will take this year (2014-15):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test** | **Grade Levels** |
|  | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| CAA |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| SBAC ELA |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| SBAC Math |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| CST Science |  |  |  | X |  |  | X |  | X |  |
| CMA Science |  |  |  | X |  |  | X |  | X |  |
| CAPA Science |  |  |  | X |  |  | X |  | X |  |

The District’s action in changing the State-wide testing requirements from the CAPA to the CAA is a legal requirement under Assembly Bill 484 and the California Department of Education’s new State-wide Assessment System.

Please understand that for this year (2014-15) the implementation and administration of the new California Alternate Assessment (CAA) is a “field test” and the results of this test will not be officially counted toward any Statewide performance targets. This means that this is a “pilot year” that will enable students and teachers in California to transition to this new alternate assessment.

Please be advised that the Statewide Testing Accommodations and/or Modifications (now known as Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations) listed in your child’s current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be provided and implemented for the new California Alternate Assessment; however, due to the fact this is brand new test some of the Accommodations and/or Modifications listed in your child’s IEP may not align with Accommodations and/or Modifications available on the California Alternate Assessment (CAA). After your child takes the CAA this year, the IEP Team including you as the parent, will have a much better understanding of what Accommodations and/or Modifications your child will need to take the test during the following school year (2015-16).

 The information considered by the District includes all of the information listed in Assembly Bill 484 <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/ab484qa.asp> and on the California Department of Education’s website <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr13/yr13rel81.asp> outlining the State’s testing requirements.

Please be advised that as the parent of a child with a disability you have protection under the Procedural Safeguards of Federal and State law. In that regard, enclosed please find a copy of your Procedural Safeguards. The sources which you may contact to obtain assistance in understanding the provisions of this part are as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, SELPA Director

Name of SELPA

Address

City, State, Zip Code

California Department of Education

Special Education Division

1430 North Street, Suite 2401

Sacramento, CA 95814

Should you have any questions regarding this letter including the State’s change to a new Statewide Assessment System and/or the IEP Team’s current recommendation for a Free and Appropriate Public Education please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

C.c.: Student’s Confidential File

Enc.: Procedural Safeguards