

Tuesday, August 23, 2012



## **95 percent of students pass exit exam Academy of Academic Excellence has highest first-time test scores in Victor Valley**

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DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS

**HIGH SCORES:** Algebra 2 students at the **Academy for Academic Excellence** in Apple Valley do class work on Wednesday. The school had one of the highest overall test scores with a first-time passing rate of 89 percent in math in the state high school exit exam.

**APPLE VALLEY** • Approximately 95 percent of the entire graduating class of 2012 passed the California High School Exit Exam by the time they received their diplomas, state officials reported Wednesday.

The California High School Exit Exam, or CAHSEE, is given to 10thgraders. The test is administered each year to demonstrate competency in reading, writing and mathematics as proof that a student has met statewide standards.

Blacks made the most improvement in a single year, scoring a passing percentage rate of 91.9 percent for the class of 2012 — increasing their passing scores by 2.3 percentage points over the class of 2011 and 8.2 percentage points over the class of 2006. State Superintendent of Public Education Tom Torlakson noted that Hispanic or Latino students made equally significant gains, scoring in at a 93.1 percent pass rate with a 1.4 percentage point increase from last year and a 7.6 percentage point increase from 2006.

Middle-class students do better on the exam than their economically disadvantaged counterparts and female students have consistently received slightly higher scores than males in both math and English.

“When 95 percent of California students are hitting the mark — despite tremendous challenges we face and the work we still have to do — there’s an awful lot going right in our public schools,” Torlakson said.

In the High Desert, the **Academy for Academic Excellence** had one of the highest overall test scores with a first-time passing rate of 89 percent in math and 92 percent in English-language arts for the 2012 graduating seniors who took the test in the 10th grade.

**“Our goal is that our students are not just ready for college, but able to successfully complete college,” said Gordon Soholt, chief academic officer at the Lewis Center’s academy. “A hard working and dedicated staff does all they can to support our students in reaching that goal.”**

Both Torlakson and Soholt gave credit to the teachers and parents, with Soholt adding that the school uses data to identify areas of need and then provide the interventions needed to help students be successful in all areas.

Statewide, the respective passing rates for first-time test takers in the 10th grade were at 84 percent for math and 83 percent for English language arts. In San Bernardino County as a whole, the passing average for both math and English-language arts was at 80 percent. Districts and charters in the High Desert had lower first-time passing rates than the state and county averages, which have a 73 percent passing rate for math and a 78 percent passing rate for English-language arts.

Full CAHSEE results are available on the California Department of education’s website at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov) .



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**GETTING IT RIGHT:** The **Academy for Academic Excellence** had one of the highest overall test scores, with a first-time passing rate of 92 percent in English-language arts for the 2012 graduating seniors who took the test in the 10th grade.

#### CAHSEE TEST SCORES

Percentage of class of 2012 graduates who passed the math and English-language arts test for the first time in 10th grade:

- Academy for Academic Excellence — 89/92
- Alta Vista Public School — 40/58

- Apple Valley Unified — 79/80
  - Barstow Unified — 70/73
  - Excelsior Education Center — 83/86
  - Hesperia Unified — 82/83
  - Lucerne Valley Unified — 71/71
  - Mirus — 63/80
  - Mojave River Academy — 59/67
  - Options for Youth — 69/78
  - Oro Grande — 92/92
  - Snowline School District — 83/82
  - Victor Valley Union High School District — 75/73
- Countywide — 80/80 Statewide — 84/83

Source: California Department of Education, California High School Exit Exam preliminary results

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