



## 2009 Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) Administration: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### FAQ Topics:

- Eligibility and the Testing Window
- STS for Mathematics Tests
- Testing Materials

### Questions About Eligibility and the Testing Window

#### Who takes the STS?

The tests of the STS series are multiple-choice tests for Spanish-speaking English learners in grades two through eleven who:

- Will have been enrolled in a school in the United States less than 12 cumulative months on the first day of testing; or
- Are receiving instruction in Spanish regardless of the length of time they have been enrolled in school in the United States.

At the option of the school district, schools may also test Spanish-speaking English learners who will have been in school in the United States 12 cumulative months or more who are not receiving instruction in Spanish.

English learners in grades two through eleven should **not** take the STS if they are:

- Designated EO (English-only)
- Designated initially fluent English proficient (I-FEP)
- Redesignated-fluent English proficient (R-FEP)
- English learners whose primary language is not Spanish
- Students in dual immersion classes who do not meet the inclusion criteria described above

#### Do English-only students in dual immersion programs take the STS?

No. The STS is to be administered only to Spanish-speaking English learners.

#### Do students in grades two through eleven who are tested with the STS also take the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and/or the California Modified Assessment (CMA)?

Yes. State law requires that all students, including English learners, participate in the STAR Program by completing the CSTs and/or CMA in addition to the STS.

#### Is it possible that a student could take a CST, a CMA, and the STS?

Yes. A Spanish-speaking English learner in grade three with an individualized education program could, for example, take the CST for Mathematics, the CMA for English–Language Arts, and the STS for Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts.

#### Is the STS testing window the same as the Appendix 3 testing window?

No. All STAR tests are now administered within the same 21-day window.

### Questions About the STS for Mathematics Tests

#### How are STS for Mathematics assessments assigned?

**Grades two through six:** STS-eligible students in grades two through six must take the grade-level STS mathematics test contained in their test booklet.



**Grade seven:** STS-eligible students in grade seven may take the grade-level STS mathematics test if they did not complete an Algebra I course in the 2008 summer session or will not complete the course during the 2008-09 school year.

**Grade eight:** Because there is no grade-level mathematics STS for grade eight, STS-eligible students in grade eight who do not meet the criteria for taking the STS for Algebra I or Geometry will take only the CST for General Mathematics. STS-eligible students in grade eight will take the STS for Algebra I if they completed an Algebra I course in the 2008 summer session or will complete the course during the 2008-09 school year. STS-eligible students in grade eight will take the STS for Geometry if they completed a Geometry course in the 2008 summer session or will complete the course during the 2008-09 school year.

**Grades nine through eleven:** Because there is no grade-level STS for Mathematics or General Mathematics for students in grades nine through eleven, an STS-eligible student will take the STS for Algebra I or STS for Geometry. STS-eligible students who completed an Algebra I course in the 2008 summer session or will complete the course during the 2008-09 school year will take the STS for Algebra I. STS-eligible students who completed a Geometry course in the 2008 summer session or will complete the course during the 2008-09 school year will take the STS for Geometry.

STS-eligible students in grades nine through eleven may take no STS for Mathematics if they are not enrolled in a mathematics course, are enrolled in a general mathematics course, or are enrolled in a business mathematics course.

### **Which students take the STS for Algebra I?**

STS-eligible students in grades seven through eleven will take the STS for Algebra I (in addition to the CST for Algebra I) if they are completing an Algebra I course in the 2008 summer session or will complete the course during the 2008-09 school year.

STS-eligible students in grade seven who are not completing an Algebra I course will take the STS for Grade 7 Mathematics (in addition to the CST for Grade 7 Mathematics).

STS-eligible students in grade eight who do not meet the criteria for taking the STS for Algebra I or Geometry will take only the CST for General Mathematics.

### **Which students take the STS for Geometry?**

STS-eligible students in grades eight through eleven will take the STS for Geometry (in addition to the CST for Geometry) if they are completing a Geometry course in the 2008 summer session or will complete the course during the 2008-09 school year.

STS-eligible students in grade eight who do not meet the criteria for taking the STS for Algebra I or Geometry will take only the CST for General Mathematics.

## **Questions About Testing Materials**

### **Will standard overage be supplied for STS testing materials?**

Yes. School districts will receive 5 percent and schools and test sites will receive 10 percent additional test booklets and answer documents as overage.

### **May a school district purchase the STS?**

No. Unlike the Apenda 3, the STS is not available for purchase.