

AHS EAP 2014 Scores Indicate Lack of College Readiness

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Near the end of the school year, students from second grade to eleventh grade are required to take the California Standards Test (CST). In regards to the CST administered for juniors, the standardized test includes the Early Assessment Program (EAP), an optional testing segment for Mathematics and English competency at the college level.

According to the California State University (CSU) website, an estimated 60 percent of students admitted into the CSU system, most of whom were among the top third of their year, were required to take remedial English and/or Mathematics courses. Remedial classes do not contribute to a degree and cost students around the nation \$3 billion annually, according to the Huffington Post.

The EAP was created by the State Board of Education, the California Department of Education, the CSU system and California Community Colleges in order to promote the importance of CSTs and allow high school seniors to have an idea of how college-ready they are in order to improve upon their skills, as well as determine which students are exempt from taking CSU placement exams, as mentioned by the CSU website. The EAP

includes both CSU's placement standards and alignment with high school standards.

"A good amount of students did not take the EAP seriously, especially considering that students rarely take the CST seriously," senior Monying Dominguez said.

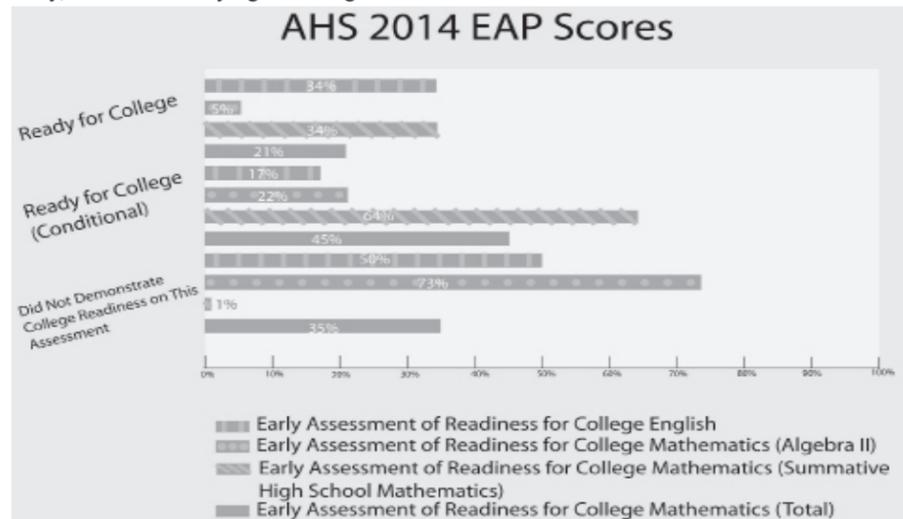
However, according to the report, 50 percent of AHS students who took the English portion are not ready for college-level courses, while 73 percent of Algebra II and 1 percent of Summative High School Mathematics testers are not. Statewide,

The CSU recommends that conditionally ready students enroll in an AP, Honors or International Baccalaureate English class and/or a math class with Algebra II as a prerequisite in senior year. Students received a letter stating whether they were ready, conditionally ready or not ready for college-level classes in the fall of senior year.

"I [thought] that the EAP was really tricky. I had a hard time figuring it out and I was surprised when I passed it. It was pretty difficult," senior Vivian Chau said.

In the future, as California makes the transition from the CST to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, the optional section may no longer be necessary, according to the CSU website. CSUs hope to be able to determine college readiness from the SBAC scores alone.

"I [do not] know any test that can truly measure college readiness [...] That being said, students have clearly exhibited an inability to think and analyze," Mathematics Department Chair Paul Stein said. "If students only learn material to ace a test, then they are not always making the connections they need to make. Students need to be responsible for how they study and try not to always take the easy way out. Rather than complain when things get difficult, try to collaborate and figure it out. This is how problem solving works in the real world."



Recently, Alhambra High School's EAP 2014 results were released on the EAP website. Out of 638 students from the class of 2015, 398 took the EAP English portion, 187 took the EAP Algebra II portion and 215 took the Summative High School Mathematics portion. Fewer students took the exam in 2014 than in 2013 because the shift to Common Core meant

61 percent of English test-takers and 49 percent of Mathematics test-takers did not demonstrate readiness for college in the 2014 results.

Additionally, 17 percent of English, 22 percent of Algebra II and 64 percent of Summative High School Mathematics testers are conditionally ready for college, meaning they

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG

Red 'Cross'ed Fingers to Meet New Blood Drive Goals

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After providing first aid services at the Alhambra 5k Pumpkin Run earlier in the month, AHS's Red Cross (RC) once again showcased their spirit of helping save lives. On Oct. 16, the small gym was requisitioned by the club to hold their first blood drive in the school year.

"This is the second official year that [AHS] Red Cross took the lead of hosting the blood drive," Red Cross Adviser Debora Blais said. "Our goal this year is to collect 200 pints of blood donations through this blood drive and the other



BLOOD DONORS UNITE On Thursday Oct. 16, Red Cross hosts its first blood drive of the year at the small gym, where AHS students are given the opportunity to donate blood. *MOOR* photo by SHANNON KHA

Learning from previous experiences, RC developed their own schedule when coordinating the blood drive. Advertisements went out in mid-September and sign-ups lasted a month. Donors who had signed up were assigned respective periods

to take part in the donating process and were also given raffle tickets for a chance at a prize of movie tickets.

"In addition to getting as many donors as we can, we urged our members to educate donors about the importance of having a healthy diet and at least eight hours of sleep before the dona-

tion, and also the potential risk of experiencing discomforts after donating," RC President Candice Romero said.

According to Blood Drive Chair Kevin Kong, RC will promote the High School Leadership Program this

year. According to the American National RC website, students, who do not need to be RC club members, are required to give three blood donations, complete eight hours of RC services and get five blood donors, who need to be either new donors or newly returned after not having donated for at

least four calendar years. Those who meet the requirements will be rewarded with a RC red cord, an opportunity to win a scholarship and a recommendation letter from the local RC executive. "Personally, I aim to leave a foundation for the future blood drives, given the success our club has had in the past," Kong said. "The significance of having blood drives is that the experience improves the willingness of students to give back [to the society] and I believe it corresponds with the altruistic spirit that AHS wants to promote."

Cal States Consider Transfer-Only System

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According to the Los Angeles Times, the California State University (CSU) system could be expecting a large number of students transferring into their schools, more than their funding can handle in the next few years. The number of potential transfers resulted in the CSUs considering a transfer-only system.

After a meeting on Sept. 9, the CSU Board of Trustees, who are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the CSU, noted that they had received a record 761,000 student applications for the fall of 2014. Transfer students make up a large number of these applicants to the CSU system this year. In September 2010, former California governor Arnold Alois Schwarzenegger signed the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, also known as SB 1440, which grants students, who have earned associate degrees, a guaranteed transfer into the CSU system. If the Board of Trustees decides to convert to a transfer only system, it will mean that they will accept only upperclassmen transfers and no freshmen.

"I think it would be unfair for freshman applicants not to have the opportunity to apply to any CSU that they want right away," senior Dang Hua said.

In 2013, 56,565 students transferred to Cal States from community colleges, and the trustees only expect the number to increase in the next few years. The board will meet again in November to discuss possible changes to the manner in which funding is managed, and to discuss the possibility of a transfer-only system.

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