Program Update: Early Assessment Program
Date: January 27, 2012

Significant Issues (National or state legal or policy issues):

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for K-12 in English-language arts and mathematics were adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) on August 2, 2010.
- The CCSS were developed through a state-led initiative to establish consistent and clear education standards for English-language arts and mathematics that would better prepare students for success in the competitive global economy.
- The California Department of Education expects that it will take several years to implement curriculum, instructional materials, and assessments based on the new standards.
- California is participating in an assessment consortium with a number of other states to prepare a common set of assessments based on the CCSS. The consortium was recently awarded grant funding to develop new assessments that would be fully implemented by the 2014-15 school year, with field testing in 2012-13 and 2013-14.
- The State Board of Education voted to join one of the CCSS assessment consortia, Smarter Balanced, in May 2011.
- California’s community colleges are represented on the state team led by CDE to implement the new standards and, working with the CSU, to plan for the transition of the EAP to the new 11th grade college readiness assessment. In addition, Vice Chancellor Linda Michalowski is the CCC system representative on the national Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia’s Higher Education Advisory Committee.

Funding News:

- The Chancellor’s Office was awarded a ($200,000) grant from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation to support CCC EAP implementation activities which include: professional development workshops, microgrants to colleges to implement workshops, tutorials or other academic interventions, and convene faculty to review online course options for student remediation.
- The Chancellor’s Office awarded $20,000 Hewlett Foundation grants to five participating community colleges to support local implementation. The microgrants were awarded to Sierra College, Antelope Valley College, Rio Hondo, Shasta College, and East Los Angeles College and all projects were completed in July 2011.
- The Chancellor’s Office awarded Walter S. Johnson grant funds to four northern and central valley area community colleges accepting EAP test results to implement academic interventions to help high school students better prepare for college. The microgrants ranged from $15,000 - $20,000, and were awarded to Fresno City College, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sierra College, and Woodland Community College. The pilots are currently underway and will be completed by June 2012.
Key Program Activities:

- To date, 62 community colleges have agreed to accept EAP test results, agreeing to waive local assessment tests for students who score “college-ready” on the EAP. In addition, 9 other community colleges have formally notified us that they are in active discussion with their faculty about accepting EAP test results. As additional colleges adopt EAP, a list on the CCCCO website is updated and can be found at: [http://www.cccco.edu/eap](http://www.cccco.edu/eap).

- The Chancellor’s Office executed a data sharing agreement with the CSU Chancellor’s Office that allows for community college access to all high school student EAP information and test results (for students who released their results to a CCC) in order to support local outreach and research. To provide colleges with access to student EAP data, the Chancellor’s Office staff, in collaboration with the Butte Technology Center, developed an online secure database so that designated college staff may download student EAP data from the college’s feeder high schools. CCCCO staff finalized security protocols and made the EAP data available in February 2011 to colleges that have agreed to accept EAP test results. To date, 28 colleges have completed the process to request and receive access to the data.

- In collaboration with Educational Testing Services (ETS, the STAR test administrator) and the CSU Chancellor’s Office, the CCCCO launched a secondary online database to provide CCC counselors, advisors, and admissions staff access to EAP test results. ETS developed a secure website that allows college counselors and admissions staff to check individual student EAP test results and to print out verification of their statuses. CCCCO staff finalized security protocols and made the website available in February 2011 to colleges that have agreed to accept EAP test results. To date, 29 colleges have completed the process to request and receive access to the website.

- EAP Steps Pilots: Three community colleges were selected to pilot the use of online English modules for HS students (Steps) for students who’ve taken the EAP but not demonstrated college readiness. The pilots occurred during October – December, and we worked with MPR to conduct the evaluation, which was completed in May 2011. MPR conducted interviews with K-12 teachers to collect qualitative data on the differences in program implementation at each site. A report of the MPR evaluation results was completed in July 2011. While the evaluation results did not demonstrate the Steps curriculum efficacy to increase student test outcomes, the study was nonetheless informative.

- We have developed a California Community Colleges Early Assessment Program listserv to provide timely program updates. To subscribe, please follow the instructions located on our website at [www.cccco.edu/eap](http://www.cccco.edu/eap).

- Chancellor’s Office staff have worked with the FCCC’s marketing team to develop outreach materials for participating CCC EAP outreach staff to use as they work with high schools and students. Printing of materials is in progress, and templates of the fliers, posters, and other materials will be available online for colleges to download.

- Santa Rosa Junior College was funded to conduct a CCC EAP validation study, which was completed in July 2011. Results showed that the typical student at SRJC who used EAP scores to successfully petition to enroll in transfer level Math and/or English at SRJC during 2010-2011 was a high achieving high school graduate, enrolling as a new student at SRJC the fall after high school graduation. This typical student has already completed some coursework at SRJC and posts a higher SRJC GPA than the average SRJC student, and was enrolled full time.

- In order to support continued expansion of the EAP within the California community colleges, for 2011-12, the Chancellor’s Office has set aside state funding to conduct additional EAP validation studies through local community colleges. Given the dearth of research studies on
EAP outcomes, it is hoped that these research efforts will provide the evidence that demonstrates that students who demonstrate proficiency on the EAP succeed when they are placed in college-level classes when enrolled in community college. Dr. Michal Kurlander, University of California Davis, has also agreed to conduct a systemwide CCC validation study for 2011-12. In addition, due to the CCC Student Success Taskforce’s recommendation to improve the alignment between K-12 and college and to support implementation of the new Common Core State Standards and accompanying K-12 assessments, it is hoped that these research efforts will help to inform a state dialogue on defining college readiness and establishing a common core.

Training & Conferences Scheduled/Provided:

- CCCCO staff worked with Dr. David Conley’s Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) to develop regional workshops for 2011 targeting community colleges and their feeder high school campus partners to identify strategies to increase college readiness rates. Approximately 150 participants attended the first set of workshops that were held in March 2011 in Anaheim and Sacramento. CCC EAP coordinators and staff, as well as CSU EAP Coordinators and local high school partners, were invited to attend these free regional workshops. The second set of workshops were held in October 2011 and included approximately 110 attendees representing 35 community colleges, 13 CSUs, and 16 partner high schools. Participant evaluations from the workshops were very positive and showed that attendees thought the sessions were very valuable.

- CCCCO staff worked with the CSU Chancellor’s Office and Educational Testing Services (ETS, the STAR test administrator) to develop a two-day EAP 101 regional training seminar for CCC staff, faculty, and other college stakeholders. The events were in response to requests from the field and were designed to provide a more foundational training on EAP. Approximately 80 participants attended the events, which were held in June 2011 in Santa Clarita and Sacramento. The EAP 101 workshop materials have been posted online for colleges and other interested stakeholders to download.