PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Gentle Blythe, 415-241-6565

More Tenth Graders Passing High School Exit Exam

August 22, 2012 (San Francisco) – For San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) tenth grade students taking the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) for the first time, approximately seventy percent (69.9%) passed both tests in 2012. This is a two percentage point gain from the year prior (67.8%).

Current law requires all public high school students take the CAHSEE for the first time in tenth grade. Students who do not pass the CAHSEE in tenth grade will have two opportunities in the eleventh grade, and up to five opportunities in twelfth grade to pass the exam.

“This exam is one important indicator of whether or not our high school sophomores are on track for graduation,” said Superintendent Richard A. Carranza. “We are particularly proud of the first-time pass rate demonstrating the rigorous preparation our students are provided during their elementary and middle school years and their first two years in high school.”

Pass rates for tenth grade students on the English Language Arts portion of the CAHSEE are up; eighty percent (79.7%) passed in 2012 compared to seventy-seven percent (78.4%) in 2011. An increase also occurred on the math portion of the CAHSEE; eighty-four percent (84%) passed in 2012 compared to eighty-two percent (82.3%) in 2011.

SFUSD’s cumulative rate for high school seniors meeting the CAHSEE requirement in 2012 is over ninety-four percent (94.3%), about the same rate as the year prior (94.7%). This rate is based on those students who have the 230 credits necessary for graduation.

All California students are required to pass the CAHSEE in order to graduate from high school. There are two parts: English Language Arts (ELA) and math. The English Language Arts section addresses state academic standards through tenth grade and contains multiple choice questions as well as one essay. The Mathematics section has only multiple choice questions and addresses state academic content standards in grades 6-8 and Algebra 1. It includes statistics, data analysis and probability, number sense, measurement and geometry, mathematical reasoning, and algebra. Students must also demonstrate strong computational skills and a foundation in arithmetic, including working with decimals, fractions and percents.

More information can be found on the California Department of Education’s web site at: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/.

##