PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senior High School Exit Exam Pass Rates Remain Steady,
Eleventh Grade Pass Rate Rises

August 24, 2011 (San Francisco) – The San Francisco Unified School District’s cumulative rate for high school seniors meeting the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) requirement in 2011 is approximately 95 percent (95%), which is the same rate as the year prior. This rate is based on those students who have the 230 credits necessary for graduation.

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

For tenth grade students taking the CAHSEE for the first time, 63.8 percent (63.8%) passed both tests in 2011. The pass rate for tenth grade students on the math portion of the CAHSEE is up; 82 percent (82%) passed in 2011 compared to 80 percent (80%) in 2010.

Students in eleventh grade saw the most gains from the year prior in passing both tests. For 2011, that figure is 81.5 percent (81.5%); in 2011 only 62.8 percent (62.8%) of eleventh grade students passed both.

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 content 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 including statistics, data analysis and probability, number sense, measurement and geometry, mathematical reasoning, and algebra.

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