For Immediate Release

High School Exit Exam Pass Rates Remain Steady

August 29, 2013 (San Francisco) – SFUSD’s cumulative rate for high school seniors meeting the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) requirement in 2013 is ninety-four percent (93.8%), about the same rate as the year prior (94.3%). This rate is based on those students who have the 230 credits necessary for graduation.

Approximately sixty-nine percent (69.1%) of tenth grade students taking the CAHSEE for the first time, passed both the English Language Arts and math tests in 2013. This is a slight decrease of less than one percent from the year prior.

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.

Pass rates for tenth grade students on the English Language Arts portion of the CAHSEE are slightly down; seventy-eight percent (78%) passed in 2013 compared to eighty percent (80%) passed in 2012. The rate for the math portion of the CAHSEE remained steady at eighty-four percent (84%).

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/.

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