



Tehama County Department of Education
Larry Champion, Tehama County Superintendent of Schools

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Date: September 1, 2011

Contact: Michelle Carlson, mcarlson@tehamaschools.org, 528-7375 (not for publication)

STAR Testing

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson has released the results of the 2011 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. The data reveals that Tehama County students, overall, continue to make steady academic progress in English-language arts and mathematics.

County Superintendent of Schools Larry Champion stated, "Our schools continue to make progress toward meeting state and federal accountability levels in spite of difficult economic times. Expectations are rising while budgets are being reduced. Dedicated educators throughout the county show up every day to do what matters most – make a difference for children by moving learning forward."

The hallmark of the state assessment system is the Academic Performance Index, or API. The API is a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000. The statewide API target is 800. Thirteen of Tehama County's schools, or 40.6%, have exceeded that goal with API's above 800. Schools meeting or exceeding the state accountability target of 800 are Lassen View, Evergreen Elementary, Evergreen Middle, Richfield Elementary, Los Molinos Elementary, Antelope Elementary, Berrendos Middle, Bidwell Elementary, Reeds Creek Elementary, Woodson Elementary, Olive View Elementary, Kirkwood Elementary, and Vina Elementary.

Noteworthy are the highest performing Elementary, Middle and High Schools: Lassen View (896), Evergreen Middle (848) and Red Bluff High (760).

In addition to the state accountability system, schools and districts are held to a federal accountability system which is part of the 2001 No Child Left Behind legislation. That legislation measures Annual Yearly Progress, or AYP, and sets annual performance targets for schools to attain in language arts and in mathematics. The targets, which have been rising steadily each year since 2002, define the percentage of students required to perform at a proficient or advanced level on the California Standards Test. For 2010-2011 the targets were:

	Elementary and Middle Schools	High Schools	Unified School Districts
ELA	67.6%	66.7%	67.0%
Mathematics	68.5%	66.1%	67.3%

One way that schools can meet the federal standard is to meet the above targets. Tehama County is home to several schools that met or exceeded these rigorous schoolwide targets. Of special note are Richfield Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, and Lassen View where students met or exceeded the above targets in both English language arts and mathematics. In addition, Antelope, Olive View, Woodson, Kirkwood, Los Molinos Elementary, Vina, and Bidwell met mathematics targets. "Nationally funded grant programs have supported mathematics professional development for a number of years and it is especially gratifying to see the increased student achievement as noted by the number of students meeting targets," said Champion. "A number of Tehama County teachers have taken advantage of these grant opportunities to improve practice and instructional strategies. It shows in the scores."

The federal accountability system also sets minimum graduation rates for high schools. This year's target was met by all three of Tehama County's high school districts. Corning High School (90.9%), Los Molinos High School (90.9%) and Red Bluff High School (93.8%) all boasted scores in excess of the state goal of 90%. These calculations are based upon the class of 2009-2010.

In sum, 55% percent of all county schools met all federal accountability levels. To do so, schools must not only meet targets as a whole school but each significant subgroup in the school's population must also meet the same criteria. Subgroup data is collected to ensure that schools are closing the achievement gap and that all learners are learning. Subgroup classifications include: Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, English Learners, and Students with Disabilities.

Schools that do not meet federal standards for two consecutive years are placed in Program Improvement Status. This number grows throughout the United States each year as targets that many see as unrealistic continue to rise. Next year's targets are eleven percent higher than this year's. Champion echoes State Superintendent Torlakson's sentiments when he says, "Everyone recognizes the federal system is flawed and must be tweaked. Schools making steady progress are being penalized and that is just not an accurate representation of progress being made." This past June, United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan acknowledged the same and invited states to submit waiver proposals. Governor Brown has submitted a waiver request and is awaiting word from Washington.

For more information on school performance, log on to <http://www.tehamaschools.org/> and click on "how are our schools doing?"