



*Inspiring students
to pursue careers in
science, math,
engineering, and
technology.*

Fact Sheet

California students rank lower than national and international averages in science and math.

- California ranks last among 40 states, according to results of the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests.
- Nationwide, only about 29 percent of fourth graders, 32 percent of eighth graders, and 18 percent of high school seniors scored as proficient in science.
- According to the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS), U.S. students in the final year of secondary school scored well below the international average in mathematics and science literacy. Among 21 industrialized nations, the United States ranked 18th, surpassing only Lithuania, Cyprus, and South Africa.

Results from the 2002 statewide Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) tests indicate improvement in math performance.

- Second through seventh grade students displayed significant improvements in mathematical scores. All grades received “high proficient” and “advanced” scores, especially second grade, which yielded an improvement of 13 percent since 2001.
- Test results from the California Achievement Test (CAT/6 replacing the SAT/9), given for the first time in California, showed 50 percent of the students scored above the national average in mathematics.

The demands of a 21st Century workforce require solid math and science skills.

- Between 1998 and 2008, the number of science and engineering jobs is expected to increase at almost four times the rate for all other occupations.
- While the economy as a whole is anticipated to provide approximately 14 percent more jobs over this decade, employment opportunities for science and engineering are expected to increase by about 51 percent, creating 1.9 million jobs.
- With current retirement patterns, the total number of retirements among science and engineering degreed workers will dramatically increase over the next 10-15 years.