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News Release

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COLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENT TO BE ADMINISTERED TO THOUSANDS OF LAUSD EIGHTH GRADERS

Will Help Prepare Students for High School Coursework And Beyond

Los Angeles—Thousands of eighth grade students in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) will soon take the EXPLORE College Readiness assessment, designed to assist students in exploring a broad range of study and career options for their future.

“Preparing students academically for high school and beyond requires that we begin now and the EXPLORE College Readiness assessment adheres to our commitment to foster a college-going culture in this District by emphasizing high academic achievement and ensuring that every student is college-prepared and career ready,” said LAUSD Chief Academic Officer Judy Elliott.

Approximately 50,000 eighth grade students in LAUSD’s middle, span and option schools are scheduled to take the assessment between October 26 and November 13.

EXPLORE is based on 8th and 9th grade subject matter content. Students will be tested in English, mathematics, reading and science. The assessment also includes a career section that matches careers with students’ interests and asks questions about students’ plans for high school and beyond. Schools are scheduled to receive student score reports within six weeks.

Such assessments help identify students’ strengths and weaknesses early in their educational development, when youngsters have the greatest opportunity to establish a four-year program of studies that will help them achieve their career and educational goals.

Data and other information generated from the assessment is expected to result in more effective individual counseling of students, including post high school goals and aspirations. The assessment will also go a long way toward ensuring high school diplomas for all students and closing the achievement gap, said LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines.

(more)

Over the next four school years—from 2009-2010 to 2012-2013—the LAUSD will administer the assessment exam to ensure that all eighth grade students have access to a comprehensive, nationally-recognized college-readiness assessment. The EXPLORE College Readiness assessment is published by ACT, Inc.

In addition, as part of the LAUSD/ACT agreements, an implementation workshop and an interpretative workshop will be held with ACT, Inc. for LAUSD administrators, counselors, teachers and Local District staff in each Local District. Support services to schools, as well as tactical and technical support, will be provided as well.

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