California’s Changing Accountability System

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Accountability systems have several components

- Content standards
- Assessments—STAR tests, High School Exit Examination
- Accountability measure—Academic Performance Index (API)
- Consequences and rewards
California’s system is changing

- Common Core standards (grades 3-8, 11) in mathematics and English
- Smarter Balanced Consortium tests
- SB 1458 (Steinberg) requires adding other non-test data to the API
Future changes may come from the federal level

- Federal “waiver” program includes state measures of school performance
  - Level and growth of student achievement
  - Graduation rates
  - Measures of college and career readiness
- Significant state flexibility over design of its performance measure
Teachers need help preparing for new standards

- New standards and tests focus more on concepts and problem solving
- Teachers generally positive about new standards and tests
- Concern about teaching concepts and higher-level skills
- Important that districts provide the long-term classroom support teachers need
New tests will increase focus on individual growth

- Growth in achievement is generally considered a better measure of school effectiveness
- Individual growth data allows development of a more accurate API
- Colorado rates schools based on success in students meeting individual growth targets
What about other state tests?

- State Superintendent Torlakson proposed dropping most high school tests
- API would be based on the High School Exit Exam and dropout rates
- Florida gives schools credit for students with high scores on AP or IB tests
- Colorado requires students to take a college preparation test, like the PSAT
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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.