

# CHSPE Administration Schedule for the 2009-10 School Year

Test Date (Saturday morning)	Regular Registration Deadline (postmark date) \$92 fee	Late Registration Deadline (receipt date) \$120 fee	Emergency Registration Deadline (receipt date) \$145 fee	Results Mailed
<i>October 17, 2009</i>	September 18, 2009	October 2, 2009	October 13, 2009	November 20, 2009
<i>March 20, 2010</i>	February 19, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 16, 2010	April 23, 2010
<i>June 19, 2010</i>	May 21, 2010	June 4, 2010	June 15, 2010	July 23, 2010

## Registering for the CHSPE

To take the CHSPE, you must register by completing a Registration Form and submitting it, with proper payment and proof of eligibility, to the CHSPE Office at the Sacramento County Office of Education. ***No walk-ins will be allowed on the day of testing.*** A Registration Form is on pages 23-24 of this bulletin. Directions for completing the Registration Form are provided on pages 25-26. The form can also be completed online at <http://www.chspe.net>. Refer to the schedule above for test dates and their associated registration deadlines and fees.

Incomplete Registration Forms and forms without proper payment, proof of eligibility, or signature will be returned unprocessed. The CHSPE Office will not be responsible for late, slow, or undelivered mail. All Registration Forms received after the emergency registration deadline, regardless of postmark, will be returned unprocessed.

See page 5 for more details on registering for the CHSPE.

CHSPE Fees	
Regular Registration	\$92
Late Registration	\$120
Emergency Registration	\$145

***All CHSPE fees must be paid by money order or bank-issued cashier's check payable to California Department of Education in U.S. dollars. Do not send cash.*** Print your (registrant's) name on the face of the money order or bank-issued cashier's check. ***Cash, personal checks, and payments using credit or debit cards will not be accepted.*** Further information regarding payment policies is on page 7.

## What's New

- **No June Transfers**  
No registrants will be allowed to change their test date from the June Administration to any future administration. See page 13.
- **Some Accommodations Restrict Transfers**  
Examinees who are granted certain accommodations will not be allowed to change their test dates beyond the Emergency Registration Deadline. See page 9.

## School Attendance

A Certificate of Proficiency does not allow you to simply drop out of school. Read the information in this bulletin and talk to your counselor about the requirements.

## College Requirements

While the Certificate of Proficiency must be recognized in California as meeting any requirement for a high school diploma, it is not the equivalent of completing all the coursework required for college admission. Check with each institution to verify its college entrance requirements.

# General Information

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a program established by California law (*Education Code* Section 48412). If eligible to take the test, you can earn the legal equivalent of a high school diploma by passing the CHSPE. The CHSPE consists of two sections: an English-language Arts section and a Mathematics section. If you pass both sections of the CHSPE, the California State Board of Education will award you a Certificate of Proficiency, which by state law is equivalent to a high school diploma (although not equivalent to completing all coursework required for regular graduation from high school). All persons and institutions subject to California law that require a high school diploma for any purpose must accept the certificate as satisfying the requirement. Although federal government agencies are not bound by state laws, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management has ruled that the Certificate of Proficiency shall be accepted in applications for federal civilian employment. Military service policies vary. Check with your recruiter for details. If you are planning to attend a university or college, contact the individual institutions to verify entrance requirements.

Passing the CHSPE does *not*, by itself, exempt minors from attending school. Minors who have a Certificate of Proficiency *must also* have verified parent/guardian permission to stop attending school. Many students who pass the CHSPE continue to attend school. State law provides that, if you leave school after passing the CHSPE and are no more than 18 years old, you may reenroll in the district in which you were registered with no adverse consequences. If you do reenroll you may be required to meet new or additional requirements established since you were previously enrolled. If you reenroll and then leave school again, you may be denied readmittance until the beginning of the following semester. Contact your guidance counselor or school administrator for further information and details about leaving school after passing the CHSPE.

Dropping out of school after registering for the CHSPE or while awaiting results is unlawful for those under 18 years old. It may also result in failing grades for courses in which you are enrolled.

## Eligibility

### Eligibility to Take the CHSPE

You may take the CHSPE *only if*, on the test date, you:

- are at least 16 years old, *or*
- have been enrolled in the tenth grade for one academic year or longer, *or*
- will complete one academic year of enrollment in the tenth grade at the end of the semester during which the next regular administration will be conducted. (Regular administrations are the fall and spring administrations each school year.)

### Description of the CHSPE

The CHSPE consists of two test sections: English-language Arts and Mathematics. You must pass both sections to receive a Certificate of Proficiency. Test specifications, which identify the skills tested, are provided on pages 33-34. Sample test questions, including a sample writing task, are provided on pages 35-44. The sample questions are also available on the CHSPE Web site at <http://www.chspe.net/about>. On the Web site, the format of the questions is the same as in the actual test booklet.

## Are There Study Materials for the CHSPE?

This bulletin contains a list of the skills tested on the CHSPE (pages 33-34) and a set of sample questions (pages 35-44). There are commercially-available materials described as study guides for the CHSPE. None have been endorsed by the California Department of Education. Carefully review the descriptions of study guides and compare them to the CHSPE specifications to see if they align to the test. The best preparation for taking the CHSPE would be rigorous courses of study aligned to the California State Standards.

### English-language Arts Section

The English-language Arts section consists of two subtests: Language and Reading. Both subtests must be passed to pass the English-language Arts section. (The two subtests do not have to be passed at the same test administration and can be taken separately.) The Language subtest has 48 multiple-choice questions and one writing task, both of which must be completed at the same administration. The multiple-choice questions measure language mechanics and language expression. The writing task requires a persuasive essay, which will be scored on the basis of writing proficiency and not on your knowledge of the subject addressed in your essay. The Reading subtest has 54 reading comprehension questions and 30 vocabulary questions, all of which are multiple-choice. The reading comprehension questions test initial understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, and strategies using three types of text: literary, informational, and functional. The vocabulary questions assess synonyms, multiple-meaning words, and context clues. The chart below shows the number of test questions in each content cluster assessed on the Language and Reading subtests. Note that the writing task on the Language subtest must be taken in conjunction with the multiple-choice questions on that subtest. If you only take the writing task, or you only take the multiple-choice questions, you will not pass the Language subtest.

### Mathematics Section

The Mathematics section has 50 multiple-choice questions that assess content in the following areas: number sense and operations; patterns, relationships, and algebra; data, statistics, and probability; and geometry and measurement. The questions also assess the mathematical processes of communication and representation, estimation, mathematical connections, and reasoning and problem solving. The chart below shows the number of questions in each content cluster assessed on the Mathematics section.

Number of Test Questions by Content Cluster					
Mathematics Section		English-language Arts Section			
		Reading Subtest		Language Subtest	
Content Cluster	Number of Questions	Content Cluster	Number of Questions	Content Cluster	Number of Questions
Number Sense and Operations	9	COMPREHENSION		MECHANICS	
		Initial Understanding	10	Capitalization	8
Patterns, Relationships, and Algebra	15	Interpretation	20	Usage	8
		Critical Analysis	14	Punctuation	8
Data, Statistics, and Probability	12	Strategies	10		
		VOCABULARY		EXPRESSIONS	
Geometry and Measurement	14	Synonyms	12	Sentence Structure	10
		Multiple Meaning Words	6	Prewriting	5
		Context Clues	12	Content and Organization	9
				TOTAL	48
TOTAL	50	TOTAL	84	WRITING	
				Writing Task	1

## Testing Time

A total of 3 ½ hours of testing time will be provided to take the CHSPE. Neither test section is timed within the 3 ½ hours, and you may spend as much time as you like on either test section, and on either English-language Arts subtest, until the testing session ends.

## Taking and Passing the CHSPE

On a test administration date, you can take the Mathematics section, the English-language Arts Language subtest, or the English-language Arts Reading subtest, or any combination of the three. You can make that decision on the day of the test. The test fee, however, is the same regardless of which parts of the test you take. To pass the CHSPE and receive a Certificate of Proficiency, you must pass both the Mathematics section and the English-language Arts section (which requires passing the Language subtest and the Reading subtest). You do not have to pass both sections on the same day, nor do you have to pass the two English-language Arts subtests on the same day. (Note, however, that on the Language subtest both the multiple-choice questions and the writing task must be completed at the same administration.) You do not have to retake a section or subtest that you previously passed. There is no limit to the number of times you may take the CHSPE, but you must register and pay the current test fee each time.

If you passed the CHSPE English-language Arts section in 2004, 2005, or 2006, you do not need to take the current English-language Arts section. Results on the CHSPE taken prior to January 2004 cannot be combined with results on the CHSPE taken after January 2004. If, in the future, the CHSPE series changes, it is possible that results on the current CHSPE will not be combinable with results on the new test series.