FUSD Students Continue Impressive Performance on State Assessment Tests

(Fremont, Ca., October 2nd, 2018) – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced today that 2018 scores for the online California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests in English Language Arts and mathematics increased further from the gains students made in 2017. Helping lead the way were students from the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD). Since the introduction of the SBAC in 2015, FUSD students have increased their proficiency in English Language Arts from 71% in 2015, to 77% in 2018 (+6%), and in Mathematics from 70% in 2015, to 73% in 2018 (+3%).

According to data released today by the California Department of Education, FUSD students maintained, and in several cases, improved on their performance from 2017. Highlights include:

- Overall, 77% of FUSD students ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard in ELA/Literacy, compared to 56% for Alameda County and 50% for all of California. In Math, 73% of FUSD students ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard, compared to 49% for Alameda County and 39% for all of California.
- FUSD’s percentage of students who ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard in ELA/Literacy maintained or increased in all grade levels from 2017, with the exception of a drop of 2% for grade 11, which still maintained a 6% increase since 2015.
- FUSD’s percentage of students who ‘Met/Exceeded’ the standard in Math increased or remained the same in all grade levels from 2017, highlighted by growth of 4% and 3% for grades 3 and 8 respectively.
- There were noticeable cohort gains in ELA/Literacy. Students in 3rd grade in 2017 and 4th grade in 2018 increased 7% from 69% to 76%. Students who tested as 8th graders in 2015 and then as 11th graders in 2018 increased in proficiency by 7% from 72% to 79%.
- When compared to 2017, four FUSD subgroups showed 4% gains in ‘Met/Exceeded’ for ELA/Literacy: Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, Special Education, and Socio-Economically Disadvantaged, and African American students showed an increase of 3%. The gains of 3% in Math were made by White and Socio-Economically Disadvantaged students.
- FUSD students also performed well among Area Achievement Level Descriptors, posting achievement of ‘Above/Near’ Standard by over 86% of students in all areas of ELA/Literacy, and over 83% of students for all areas of Math.

(more)
“We continue to be impressed by the gains and overall consistency demonstrated by our students at all grade levels,” said FUSD Superintendent, Dr. Kim Wallace. “These results serve to both reaffirm our faith in the effectiveness of the curriculum developed for our students, and also to motivate our teachers and staff to continue moving forward to create the best educational outcomes district-wide.”

“We’re encouraged by what we see, especially since these tests are more rigorous than previous paper-and-pencil tests,” added Torlakson. “However, we need to make sure all students continue to make progress,” he said. “We must continue our work to narrow achievement gaps as we raise the bar for our students, and better prepare them for 21st century college and careers.”

Smarter Balanced tests consist of two parts: a computer adaptive assessment and a performance task. The performance task challenges students’ ability to apply their knowledge and skills to problems in a real-world setting. The two parts measure depth of understanding, writing, research, and problem-solving skills more thoroughly than the previous multiple choice paper tests. Scores on the assessments fall into one of four achievement levels: standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met, and standard not met.

Parents/Guardians will receive individual results for their children. In addition, California provides the CAASPP Results Web page, where parents and teachers can view and compare aggregated results among schools, districts, and counties along with statewide results.

About FUSD: The Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) is made up of 42 schools serving nearly 35,000 students in grades K-12. With 16 National Merit Scholars, nine schools designated as ‘California Distinguished Schools’ and two schools named National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2018, FUSD’s mission is to provide equitable opportunities to Educate, Challenge and Inspire students of all ages, talents and ability levels, while striving to prepare each with the skills required to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing world. FUSD is located in the City of Fremont, California, a thriving international community. Residents come from countries across the globe to call Fremont home. FUSD takes pride in its diversity, its community, and in its schools. Visit the District’s website at www.fremont.k12.ca.us, Facebook, or Twitter pages for more information.

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