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NEWS RELEASE
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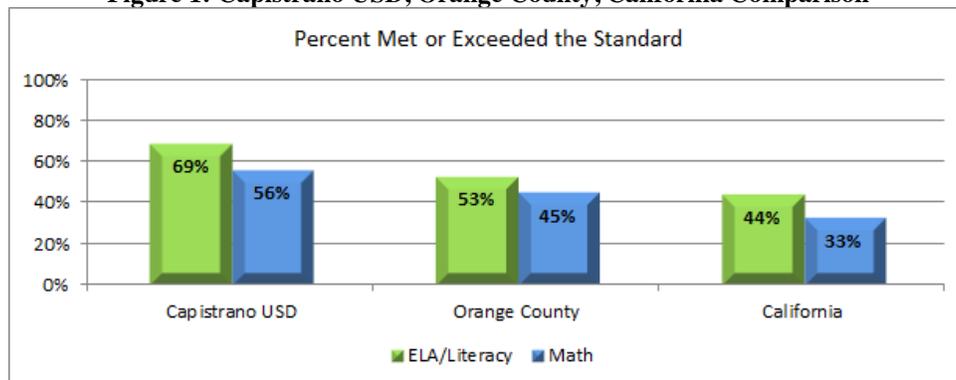
NEW BASELINE SETS THE STANDARD FOR CUSD AS TOP-PERFORMING LARGE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN CALIFORNIA

On September 9, 2015 the California Department of Education (CDE) released the 2014-2015 results for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The CAASPP system includes the new, computer-based, Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) in English language arts (ELA)/literacy and mathematics for grades 3-8 and 11 which measure college and career readiness. Because 2014-2015 was the first year of these new assessments, it is considered a baseline year; a starting point from which future growth can be measured against.

Capistrano Unified School District prepared for these new assessments with training on the new state standards and adjusting curriculum and instruction to reflect the new standards. The SBAs are a very different type of assessment which challenges students to use higher level questioning strategies, explain how they reached their answers using textual and research-based evidence, analyze more complex text, and learn how to employ critical thinking and different approaches to problem solving. Superintendent Vital stated, “We are very proud of the hard work from students, parents, and staff. It was through this collective effort that we were able to undertake this major systemic change and prepare our students for future academic success.”

The SBA results for the District, Orange County, and California are shown in Figure 1. It shows the percent of students that met or exceeded the standard in ELA/literacy and mathematics. A link to the results on CDE’s website can be found here: <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/sb2015/Search>.

Figure 1: Capistrano USD, Orange County, California Comparison





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Figure 2 compares all K-12 districts in Orange County.

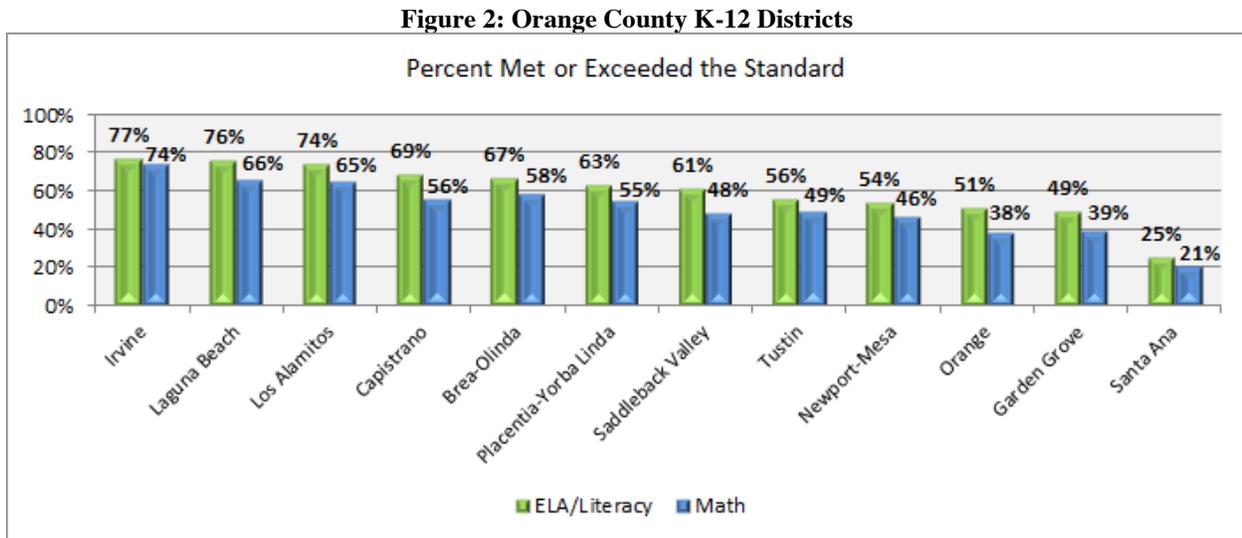
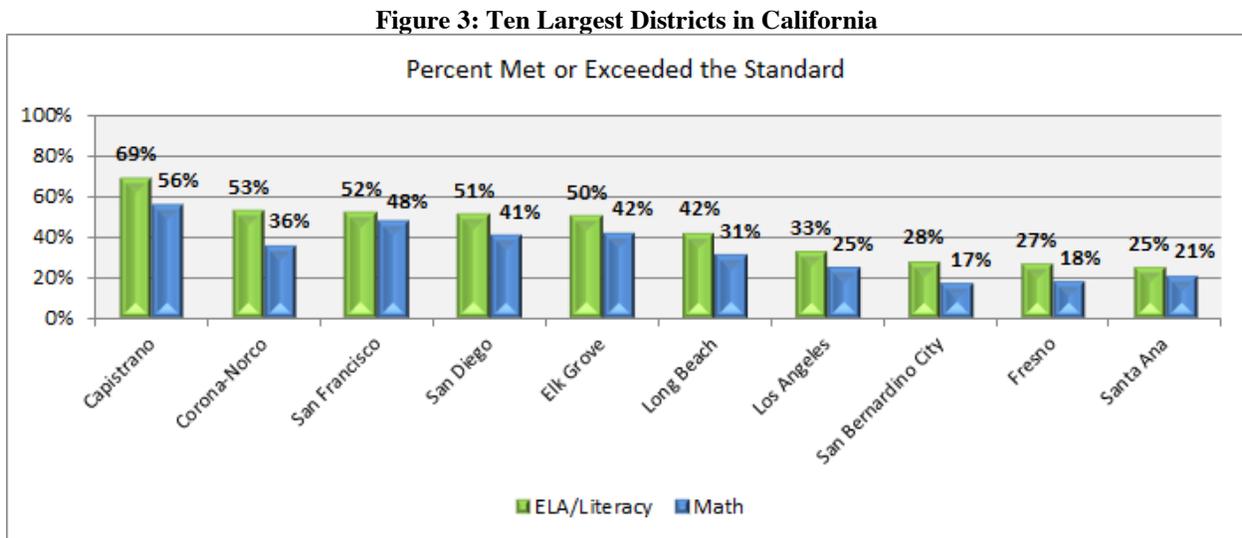


Figure 3 compares the ten largest school districts in California. The ten largest district designations are based on CDE enrollment from 2014.



Conversations have begun on how to interpret and utilize SBA data to guide instruction to better prepare students for college and career. SBA results represent only one point of data used in data-driven instructional decisions. CUSD will also utilize the district-developed Common Interim Assessments (CIAs). The CIAs allow teachers to delve deeper into the data to address specific areas of need. Capistrano Unified School District looks forward to the continued challenge of preparing students to excel on these new standards and assessments.