During spring of 2014 along with thousands of schools across California, we are participating in a field test of a modern assessment system designed to help shape teaching and learning in the classroom. Known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), these computer-based tests will replace the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

This year we will still have STAR science tests for grades 5, 8 and 10. Grade 11 students will take STAR tests in English Language Arts and/or Math as a requirement to participate in the Early Assessment Program (EAP). The California Alternative Performance Test (CAPA) will be administered to students who qualify for this assessment.

The California Education Code Section 60615 states that parents/guardians can submit a written request to the principal of their student's school if they do not wish to have their student take any or all tests. If a parent or guardian submits an exemption request after testing has begun, any test(s) completed before the request is submitted will be scored and the results reported to the parent or guardian and included in the pupil's records. AUSD teachers and schools support students to do well on the tests and help them learn test-taking skills that will enable them to be successful throughout their school career and beyond. We encourage parents to contact their child's teacher or principal with any concerns they may have about the test before they request that their student be excluded from taking the test(s).