

Petition Against the SAT9/STAR Test and the API System

We, the undersigned California Educators, Parents, Students, and Community Members, oppose the use of the SAT9/STAR Test in our public schools and object to the API reward money system. We find both to be harmful to children's education for the following reasons:

- The SAT9/STAR Test is racially, culturally, and socio-economically biased, unfair, and inappropriate for our students. It does NOT measure student achievement or teacher quality. The test itself and the API reward system perpetuate the huge economic, social, cultural, and language disparities among the state's students.
- The State currently spends well over \$1 billion on the SAT9/STAR Test and on the API reward money, while our schools remain short on supplies, staff, librarians, and counselors.
- The pressure put on teachers to raise test scores forces narrowing of the curricula. The SAT9/STAR does not assess many of the important skills and concepts integral to a well-rounded education. The rewards and punishments attached to the SAT9/STAR encourages teachers to downplay important subjects and skills that are not tested and narrow the way they teach the subjects that are tested.
- The instructional time wasted due to the administration of the test is enormous, while the test provides us with no useful information. Teachers already have assessments that provide them with valuable feedback to guide and strengthen their teaching; we don't need the SAT9/STAR.

We insist that the State of California use multiple measures and authentic assessment to determine student and school success, to equally distribute funds to schools, and to eliminate the API ranking and rewards. Put our money to better use for all our students by providing adequate and well-maintained facilities, by funding increased teacher training and support and by providing necessary materials for the education of our children.

Print Name

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Address or School District

Circle: Teacher Parent Student Community Member

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**Mail this petition before May 15, 2002 to: School Voices, 299 San Jose Ave.,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 www.schoolvoices.org 831-469-4280**