California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

On October 7, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed California Senate Bill (SB) 172, which suspends administration of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) for three years.  CAHSEE was originally put into place to improve student achievement in high schools and to ensure students graduate from high school with grade level skills in reading, writing, and math.  All students in California public schools were required to pass the exit exam, in addition to meeting other graduation requirements, to receive a high school diploma.

SB 172 formally suspends the administration of the CAHSEE, as well as the requirement to pass the exam as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school for the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 school years.  This means that current seniors, juniors, and sophomores are no longer required to pass the CAHSEE to graduate.

During this three year exemption period, an advisory panel will make recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the continuation of the high school exit examination and/or alternative courses of action.  The State Board of Education is expected to come to a decision about the exam before the three year exemption period ends.

It is unknown at this time how this three year suspension will affect current 9th grade students.   However, it is unlikely that an examination requirement would be reinstated without providing students sufficient opportunities to pass an exit exam.