



Study Island California Standards Mastery: Designed to Meet CDE Guidelines for Academic Preparation for State Assessments

The Study Island Online California Standards Mastery Program was specifically written for California schools to use as a supplemental formative assessment activity for California's academic content standards. Our subscribers use Study Island both independently and in whole group instruction to review state curriculum, as well as to obtain practice and remediation in individual skills outlined in the standards. To be certain that in the use of our program schools cannot inadvertently perform inappropriate test-preparation, we have taken special care to meet the *California Department of Education Guidelines for Academic Preparation for State Assessments* dated April 2004.

Our web-based software contains lessons, practice questions and games which are divided into units for each of the academic standards tested on elementary and middle school CST's in Math, English/L.A., Science and Social Studies. Students log in with a unique user name and password to a personalized outline of topics, which includes individualized tracking of their achievement. Students challenge themselves to meet the established passing level for each standard. During practice quizzes, students will receive immediate feedback on their answer choices, as well as an explanation of the correct answer.

Data is recorded to indicate students' performance on each standard compared to grade level proficiency, and to document any remedial skill practice that occurred. In viewing this data, teachers become aware of the standards in which students need additional instruction. Once that intervention has occurred, a teacher may ask students to return to those Study Island topics in order to both further practice these skills and measure improvement.

Study Island is designed to be used year-round as a center or lab-based activity. Teachers typically assign students to one or two topics a week that match their lesson plan objectives. If a school so chooses, students can also log-on to Study Island after school from any computer having web access.

In using the program in these prescribed ways, students are improving their mastery of standards, which results in deep, experiential-based and fun learning, which is the reason for significant performance gains for all students as measured by state testing. The California Department of Education Guidelines on Academic Preparation for State Assessments defines this as an appropriate method for state test preparation. Additional appropriate test-taking strategies that Study Island can be helpful with are:

- ? Test-Taking Strategies such as understanding directions, checking answers, and using the problem-solving tactics of educated guessing, estimating and working problems backward.
- ? Exposing students to various test formats, including questions that contain "none of the above," "all of above," "not here," negative wording, and true-false statements.
- ? Using release items (Study Island pre-test and post-test units only) to help students determine what and how standards are assessed, and familiarizing them with the structure and format of the items.

For more information and research on Study Island's design, please contact Julie Huston, Regional Sales Manager, 800-419-3191 ext. 7612, julie.huston@studyisland.com.