

Trade Tech's API Score Soars In 3rd Year



The Academic Performance Index (API) Report shows how much a school is improving from year to year based on its API. A school's API is a number that ranges from 200 to 1000 and is calculated from the results for each school's students on state-wide tests. The state has set 800 as the API target for all schools in California by 2014. Schools that fall short of 800 are required to meet annual growth targets until that goal is achieved.

The index is computed by taking the results of two state-wide exams and combining them for an overall score. In California, these exams are the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and the STAR tests. The CAHSEE tests are given to all 10th graders and any 11th or 12th graders who have not yet passed.

The test has two portions, English and math, and both portions must be passed before a student can receive their diploma. Students are given their grades with one of five designators: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic and far below basic.

Trade Tech had an 86.5% pass rate (basic-advanced) for the CAHSEE, which sat above the local average. However, in the other main category of proficient/advanced only, Trade Tech scored 63%, far higher than the local average. With one and two years (11th and 12th grades) still left to pass for just a few students, we are confident that Trade Tech will have a 100% passing rate for our 2012 graduating class.

Star testing is carried out differently. Tests are given to all 9th – 11th graders. In the STAR testing, Trade Tech also excelled. In 2009, we received an overall API score of 540. The following year, we posted a score of 558, showing 18 points of growth. Last year, we needed 12 points of growth to be recommended for renewal and to avoid program improvement status. Entering our stride in our third year of operation, Trade Tech posted a score of 717, a growth of 159 points! Without a doubt, the Trade Tech faculty is looking forward to a score greater than 800 this year.