

To: Message to K-12 School Counselors/Leaders

Subject Line: A Message from CSUSM about CSU Policy Changes for Incoming Students

On August 2, the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office issued [Executive Order 1110](#), which provides policy changes to the way all 23 CSU campuses serve incoming students.

Effective fall 2018, the Executive Order (EO) revises the policy for first-year students' placement in English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses, retires the CSU assessment exams used for course placement, and modifies the Early Start Program. In addition, it eliminates the use of developmental education prerequisites and calls for alternative instructional models to support students in credit-bearing courses.

EO 1110 links directly to the [CSU's Graduation Initiative 2025](#), which aims to increase graduation rates for all CSU students and eliminate achievement gaps between underrepresented minorities (URM) and non-URM students. Specifically, this EO focuses on academic preparation.

The changes mandated by this EO require California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) to use multiple measures of academic proficiency in lieu of assessment exams to place students into general education English and math courses. The measures will include the following: high school English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning course grades, high school grade point averages, grades in collegiate courses, ACT scores, SAT scores, Advanced Placement scores, International Baccalaureate scores, SAT subject tests, or Smarter Balanced Assessment/Early Assessment Program scores. At this point, the exact methods to be used to determine placement have not yet been released. CSUSM has several faculty/administrator groups working to implement these changes for fall 2018 on our campus, and we will provide additional updates as soon as possible.

CSUSM will continue to offer [Early Start](#) in summer 2018. Early Start is a summer program offered to first-year students before the start of their fall semester that provides college readiness support. CSUSM will continue to offer students enrolled in Early Start the chance to prepare for college-level work while also completing courses for credit. As noted above, CSUSM is awaiting information from the Chancellor's Office regarding the multiple measures that will be used to determine student placement in courses and in Early Start. Again, we will share information about those measures once it is available.

The Chancellor's Office has shared these changes at high school counselor conferences and has also indicated that it will send a clarifying memo to school districts very soon. In addition, based on feedback I received from K-12 leaders at a recent North County Professional Development meeting, I have requested that the Chancellor's Office provide a graphic that illustrates these changes. We will provide this document as soon as it is available.

In the meantime, we ask that you please forward this message to your guidance counselors and/or any staff who may be impacted. If you or your staff have more questions about the CSU's

Graduation Initiative 2025, please visit the [website](#). Additional questions may be directed to me at dformo@csusm.edu.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Formo, Ph.D.
Dean of Undergraduate Studies