

Who should take it?

- ⊕ Extremely high-achieving and ambitious students who want a head start on college. See the back of the flyer for a **special note** for these students.
- ⊕ Students who know they want to pursue a technical, mechanical or other skills-based career and would like to begin practical training for that career immediately.
- ⊕ Bright but unmotivated students who are not challenged in high school. Some of these students may respond more positively to college-level work that stimulates them.
- ⊕ Students who are behind on units for graduation and would prefer to test out of high school rather than make up the units. This is assuming they possess the skills to pass the **CHSPE**, regardless of their academic record.
- ⊕ Students with job opportunities that require a high school diploma.

Remember: taking and passing the **CHSPE** does **NOT** mean you have to leave high school, just that you've proven your equivalency to a high school graduate. You can remain in high school after passing the **CHSPE**, it is simply an opportunity to demonstrate early proficiency. The path you take afterwards is entirely up to you.

A Special Note for High-Achieving Eighth Graders...

While it may seem premature to be thinking about getting *out* of high school before you've even started, careful planning is required if your goal is to enter a four-year university with a **CHSPE**.

High school graduation requirements are not identical to university entrance requirements, so you need to make sure you take the classes you need to get into the college of your choice. These **will not** be the same classes as your peers who are graduating from high school. Therefore, you will need to *customize your class schedule*. See your counselor to discuss your special circumstances and be prepared to advocate for your needs.

PLEASE NOTE: You—and your parents—need to understand that if you choose this path, *you will not be receiving a high school diploma, and you will not walk at graduation*. The **CHSPE** takes the place of all that.

Also, because you will be taking college preparatory classes like **AP Biology** and **Psychology** instead of high school graduation requirements like **Health** and **PE**, you will have a more rigorous course-load as a freshman and sophomore than most of your classmates. You must be prepared to work harder for your success, so make sure your commitment is firm.

INFORMATION IS CRITICAL!! Be proactive, *you* need to know what universities you want to attend, and understand what their entrance requirements are so *you* can tailor your courses to meet them.

What's the advantage of accelerated high school? You will stand out as an exceptional applicant to the college of your choice if you can complete their requirements in less time than other students. Fulfilling higher level coursework in fewer years is tangible evidence of your academic prowess, dedication and tenacity, desirable qualities universities look for in an applicant. In a competitive admissions environment, this can make the difference in being accepted to your dream school.

How Would YOU Like to Finish High School Early?

How? Well, depending on your birthday, you can complete high school in



two–three years instead of four. This accelerated plan may not be for everyone, so read this informational

flyer carefully to see if it's a good idea for you. It might be the smartest decision you ever make!

QUESTIONS? Send email to CHSPEinfo@mst829.info

What is the CHSPE?

It stands for: **C**alifornia
High
School
Proficiency
Examination



The **CHSPE** is usually administered three times a year, in **March, June** and **November**, and you must be *at least 16 years old on the test date*. You cannot take the **CHSPE** after you turn 18, you must take the **GED** (General Education Development) instead. You will also need to *complete at least two years of high school*. A passing score is equivalent to a high school diploma. Results are usually available about a month after the exam.

There are two sections, **Mathematics** and **English Language Arts**. **Mathematics** is multiple choice *only*. The **English Language Arts** portion has two parts: **Reading**—multiple choice—and **Language**, multiple choice plus writing.

You will pay a test registration fee, which increases as the test date approaches, so register early. Please note: the fee can only be paid by **cashier's check** or **money order** payable to the **California Department of Education**. *Cash, personal checks and credit cards are not accepted*. At this time, online registration is not available, you must register by mail, so be aware of the deadlines and plan accordingly.

You can find more information on the **CHSPE**, including exam dates, fee schedules, and a practice test, at:

<http://www.chspe.net>

What are your options after leaving high school?

FOUR YEAR UNIVERSITY

- ☐ In California, the UC and CSU systems will accept a **CHSPE** in lieu of a high school diploma if you have fulfilled the A-G requirements for admission. See their websites for more details:
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu>
<http://www.csumentor.edu/>
- ☐ If you are interested in a private or out-of-state university, check out their website and/or contact them to discuss their policy on accelerated admissions and equivalency exams.
- ☐ Be aware that most four-year universities will also have testing requirements such as SATs or ACTs that you will need to take in addition to the **CHSPE**.
- ☐ Be prepared to take additional classes at a junior college or night school if you are trying to meet admissions requirements in two years.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- ☐ California community colleges accept passing **CHSPE** scores in lieu of a high school diploma. They offer open enrollment, so you can begin your college education immediately.
- ☐ You may still need to take additional placement exams.
- ☐ You have a choice of pursuing a two-year Associates degree, or transferring to a four-year college to complete a Bachelors. Many community colleges also offer vocational certifications.
- ☐ If you decide to continue on to university, your **CHSPE** score will also be accepted as proof that you've met high school proficiency levels.

WORKFORCE

- ☐ Most full-time jobs will require a high school diploma, so if you're planning to join the workforce directly out of high school instead of pursuing any post-secondary education, you will need evidence of high school equivalency.
- ☐ Even though most apprenticeship and police and fire department training programs require applicants to be 18, it is often helpful to show that you have some hands-on experience in the trade/field when you apply. By exiting high school through the **CHSPE**, you can work full time or volunteer in your chosen field, and apply for an opening as soon as you reach the minimum age requirement, giving you a head start on other candidates.
- ☐ Youthful candidates stand out as being particularly focused and dedicated.



Assuming you've met all the same requirements as everyone else, being the youngest applicant can be an advantage.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- ☐ Vocational schools such as Heald College, Wyotech, Western Career College, DeVry, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandtrucking schools, cosmetology schools, etc... will accept the **CHSPE** as proof of high school equivalency for enrollment.
- ☐ If you are very confident that you want to pursue a career in these fields, vocational schools may be the quickest way to learn the basics and enter the workforce. Some programs take as little as six months to complete.