

INTRODUCTION

California is presently engaged in educational reform efforts aimed at setting high standards for student achievement. The goal of these efforts is to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for postsecondary education and careers, economic self-sufficiency, and effective citizenship.

The purpose of *Resources for Standards and Assessment in Business Education* is to provide business and marketing educators with the tools and background to work with standards as the guiding force in their planning and course design. The objectives of this guide are to:

- Establish a base of knowledge about standards-based education.
- Support the design of a standards-based assessment system that aligns standards, assessments, and instructional practices to improve student learning.
- Encourage business and marketing educators to integrate academic content standards into their assessments and instructional programs.

Throughout this document references will be made to *Aiming High: High Schools for the 21st Century*, the grade span document developed by the California Department of Education. The ultimate goal of *Aiming High* is to provide a road map for raising student achievement by ensuring that all students have the opportunity to reach high academic standards. It helps to place standards-based

education in the context of California’s rigorous accountability system and serves as a how-to guide for the development of a standards-based educational system. *Aiming High* contains a wealth of information, strategies, and resources for achieving state goals of providing a well-balanced high school education for all students.

The *Aiming High ToolKit* is another valuable resource designed for use in California high schools in relation to the chapters of *Aiming High*. The *Toolkit* provides resources to assist schools in implementing reform strategies and provides detailed examples, tools, and models to accompany the *Aiming High* document. Included in both *Aiming High* and the *Toolkit* are numerous websites that can be helpful in developing a standards-based system. The extensive *Toolkit* is available on-line at www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/aimhigh/.

The design and implementation of a standards-based educational system requires the dedication, commitment, and collaboration of the entire educational community. Departments and/or disciplines cannot work in isolation to accomplish schoolwide systems. However, the concepts and processes of “change” and “working in teams” are often difficult for individuals to embrace. Two of the tools included in the *Aiming High Toolkit* are specifically designed to assist educational agencies in facilitating these processes; they are Tool #9: The Change Tool (Tab 13) and Tool #10: Working in Teams (Tab 14).