

# Preparing your Child for the CAASPP:

As students get ready to take the SBAC, they can take practice tests at home to prepare and understand the type of questions they will be given. As a parent, you may want to walk through the practice test with them. This practice can help your student understand testing format and features and is a great opportunity for them to know what type of questions they will be asked.

To see a practice test, visit the California Department of Education's (CDE's) Smarter Balanced Practice Tests Web page: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>

The tests are part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System, or better known as CAASPP, and are one element of information that helps teachers, parents, and the student understand how well the student is meeting their grade level's expectations.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment tests, which include ELA, Math, Science, and Spanish, will be taken in May. The CAST will include Science, critical thinking, and problem-solving questions. The CSA will test literacy level in Spanish for students enrolled in the Dual Language program or enrolled to US schools after April 15, 2022. These assessments are not timed, so students will have plenty of time to complete their tests.

For more information about the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, you can visit: <https://belearninghero.org/in-the-classroom/smarter-balanced/>

## USEFUL LINKS FOR PARENTS

CDE CAASPP Page <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>

Parents' Guide to Understanding the

SBAC <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>

## CAASPP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is CAASPP?

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) exam consists of **Smarter Balanced (English language arts/literacy, Math, Science, and Spanish)** and **California Alternate Assessments (ELA, Math, Science, and Spanish)**.

### Why is CAASPP important?

1. It provides an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the academic standards. The results will not be used for any evaluative grade purposes. Instead, this information helps plan out curriculum supports, instruction, and resources to support student learning.
2. These assessments provide important information as to whether students are on track to pursue college and career by the time they graduate from high school. The tests provide timely and actionable student information so that teachers and schools can adjust and improve teaching.
3. Student participation and performance on the state tests directly contribute to school's academic performance accountability measures on the California Dashboard. The authorizing school districts and the state look at our academic performance indicators as a determining factor to keep schools open. Academic performance for math and English language arts is determined by CAASPP testing and participation rates.

### **Who takes CAASPP?**

**Each spring California students in grades three through eight and grade eleven** take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.

### **When CAASPP will be taken?**

CAASPP Testing will take place from **May 15 to June 2nd**. Students will be assigned specific days and times during this testing window to complete the tests. Students will test over multiple days. It is essential that your child attend the scheduled testing days.

### **Does CAASPP matter for college?**

Participation in the CAASPP also directly affects students. It is a College Readiness Indicator called the Early Assessment Program. Students who achieve a certain score can skip placement tests or introductory courses for California State University schools or specific community colleges.

### **What are the components of CAASPP?**

The math and English assessments are comprised of two components: **the computer adaptive test (CAT)** and **the performance tasks (PTs)**. Performance tasks requires students to synthesize multiple sources of information, critically analyze, and develop an extended response to a real-world problem.

### **How CASAPP will be administrated?**

Students will complete their CAASPP testing in person with their scheduled teacher/s **starting May 15** using their school provided Chromebooks. All testing is completed on this Chromebook and personal devices are not allowed.

### **What is CAST?**

The California Science Test (CAST) measures what students know and can do using the **California Next Generation Science Standards**, which focus on understanding the scientific concepts found in the **life sciences, earth and space sciences, and physical sciences**. These standards integrate disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts to help students understand how science works in the natural world.

### **California Science Test - Video**

### **What types of questions are in the CAST?**

The CAST consists of stand-alone or discrete questions and two or more performance tasks. Questions can be multiple-choice, where the student selects one or more options; constructed-response, where the student writes a text response; or technology-enhanced, where the student performs an action (such as indicating a part of a graphic), selects an option from a drop-down menu, completes a data table or diagram using drag-and-drop functionality, or otherwise responds in a way that takes advantage of the online test delivery platform.

### **Who takes CAST?**

5th, 8th, 11th grade students are required to take the CA Science Test (CAST).

### **How to access electronics student score reports and other resources?**

The Starting Smarter website is available to help empower parents/guardians and families to become partners in their children's academic success:

- View or download the [Introduction to Electronic Score Reporting](#) video.
- [Starting Smarter for the CAASPP](#)
- [CAASPP Parent/Guardian Site](#)
- [Link to Practice and Training Tests](#) (Direct Link to Practice and Training Tests)
- [CAASPP Parent Guardian Resources](#) (Collection of PDFs, Fact Sheets, Video Tutorials for Universal Tools)

