



# Evergreen School District

*From strong roots grow bright futures*

February 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each spring, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated in their active individualized education program, are eligible to take the California Alternative Assessments (CAAs).

**This year, your child will take the following test(s), depending on his or her grade level:**

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment or CAA in English language arts/literacy (grades three through eight and grade eleven)
- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment or CAA in mathematics (grades three through eight and grade eleven)
- California is in the process of implementing the California Next Generation Science Standards. As part of that implementation, students in grades five, eight and high school will try out a new test called the California Science Test, or CAST.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are online tests that measure what your child knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support he or she needs to be successful in school.

To learn more about either the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments or the CAST, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

You can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

To learn more about the CAAs, please read the *Parent Guide to Understanding the CAAs* which can be found on the California Department of Education (CDE) Parent Guide to Understanding the CAAs Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caa-pgtu.pdf>. The CAA practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web site at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>, are another good resource. Practice tests are a good way to preview the test and view sample questions. Reference guides are available to help you find and log on to the practice tests. The "Reference Guide for the CAAs" can be found on the CDE's Quick Reference Guides Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppqrg.asp>.

For information on specific dates and times when your child will take the test in each subject, please contact the school principal.

Sincerely,

Dan Deguara  
Assistant Superintendent

How can I help my child get ready for the State Assessment?

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Talk about the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and his or her teacher have high expectations and that you are both there to help, every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

## **District Office**

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# Statewide Testing Notification

California students take several mandated statewide tests. These tests provide parents/guardians, teachers, and educators with information about how well students are learning and becoming college and career ready. The test results may be used for local, state, and federal accountability purposes.

## California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments**

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) computer adaptive assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics tests are administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven to measure whether students are on track to college and career readiness. In grade eleven, results from the ELA and math assessments can be used as an indicator of college readiness.

- **California Science Tests (CAST)**

The new, computer-based CAST measures student acquisition of the California Next Generation Science Standards. It is administered in grades five and eight, and once in high school. The new computer-based CAST replaces the California Standards Tests (CST) for Science.

- **California Alternate Assessments (CAA)**

The computer-based CAA for ELA and CAA for mathematics is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through eight and grade eleven. Test items are aligned with the CCSS and are based on the Core Content Connectors. The instructionally embedded CAA for Science is administered in grades five and eight, and once in high school.

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments.

## English Language Proficiency Assessments for California

California will transition from the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) in 2017–18. The ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards. It consists of two separate English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English learners and the other for the annual summative assessment to identify students' English language proficiency level and to measure their progress in learning English.

## Physical Fitness Test

The physical fitness test (PFT) for students in California schools is the FitnessGram®. The main goal of the test is to help students in starting lifelong habits of regular physical activity. Students in grades five, seven, and nine take the fitness test.