

STATE TESTING UPDATE #2—CAASPP

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

How to Take a Remote Test

How to Take a
Remote Test



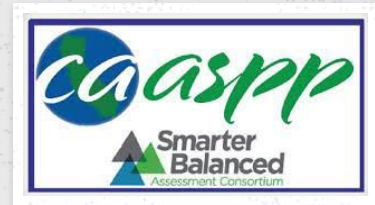
Cómo tomar una prueba remota

Cómo tomar una
prueba remota



DEAR FAMILIES,

For the 2021 spring administration of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for English language arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science (CAST), students will be able to take their assigned tests remotely. Our priority is to keep our students and educators safe by following state, county, and local health and safety requirements associated with the current pandemic.



This letter provides information about what students testing remotely need. Students will take the test from the safety of their homes. The test administrator or examiner will connect with each child by computer. To make sure that each student receives the most accurate score, we are providing the following guidelines for student testing:

1. You may assist your child with setting up the technology used to enter the test session.
2. To keep the test fair for all students, we ask that you do not talk about the test questions or any materials for the test with anyone before, during, or after the test.
3. No one may record the test or use a camera or another device to take pictures of the test questions or your child taking the test. This helps to keep the questions confidential.
4. We need to know that your child is completing the test without any help. To verify compliance, a web camera and microphone will be used to observe your child while taking the test. The camera is only used to observe your child and the surroundings during the test and will not record the session.
5. Please follow all instructions given by the test administrator or examiner to place the camera where your child and the child's immediate surroundings can be observed.

If your child cannot use the computer's camera, microphone, and speaker, or headphone during remote testing, you may contact your homeroom teacher for another way to administer the test to your child—for example, in-person test administration—when it can be done safely following state, county, and local health and safety requirements.

Thank you for making sure your child is ready to test. With your help, we can ensure that your child and all California students are provided with the best opportunity to succeed and show what they know.

*We expect to begin proctoring in April.

Who	All students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 -12 are tested.
What	Tests students' knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy, Mathematics, and Science.
How	The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are computer-adaptive. The online tests give students many different types of questions that allow them to interact with the test questions. For some of the math questions, for example, your student might be asked to drag and drop things from one place on the screen to another or draw a graph to solve a problem. Computer-adaptive tests adjust the difficulty of the questions based on the answers that students give. As students answer questions correctly, they receive more challenging questions. Incorrect answers trigger easier questions. This helps keep the test short for many students and makes sure the scores are very accurate, especially for students who score very low or very high.
When	March 9th-June 9th, 2021
Where	Students will test remotely. A Peak Prep faculty member will be in touch soon with your student's test dates and times.
Why	Test results are one piece of information about how your student is doing in school. Together with report cards and other information, test results tell us if your student is on track to succeed in higher grades and is ready for college and career. For students in grades 11-12, these results may be used by some colleges in California to decide how ready students are for college-level classes.

FAQ'S

Why are Summative tests important?

- Summative assessments are critical, now more than ever, to providing administrators and teachers with the high-quality student and school achievement data to track potential learning loss in order to inform teaching and learning.
- Statewide summative assessments are an essential component of an equitable, valid, and balanced assessment system, especially amid the disruption caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. They help provide actionable data for improvements and targeting supports to students most in need.
- Statewide summative assessments shed light on the progress of students who are disproportionately impacted by school closures, including those who are English learners, minorities, and low income, and students with disabilities.
- Statewide summative assessments are required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to help provide a uniform measure of student achievement.

Has my child learned this material well enough to be tested on it?

- This assessment will allow teachers and administrators to get a sense of where students are at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Is this an open-book test?

- This is not an open-book test. Your child should not have any unauthorized material out during testing.

How does my child contact the teacher while testing?

- Your child will have access to a "raise your hand" tool in the testing browser. They will also have the ability to send a message via chat (by typing a comment into the chatbox) to their teacher. If your child has lost connection with the testing service, they should contact the teacher by email, phone, or some other prearranged means.

Who can I call if my child has trouble logging on to the test or if my child has technical problems during testing?

- Please let the teacher proctoring the exam know.

Can students use their own devices at home?

- Students may use personal devices with the exception of personal Chromebooks. Devices must have a working camera, a microphone, and a set of headphones or a speaker.'

What happens if I walk into the room while my student is testing?

- This is not an issue. You may walk into the room when your child is testing, but you should not interrupt your child or look at the test questions being asked.

What happens if I observe someone in my house helping my child take the test?

- If you observe someone helping your child with test-taking, you should stop the assistance, ask your child to pause the test, and notify the teacher immediately.

Can a parent/guardian act as a test administrator or examiner in place of the teacher?

- No. State regulations declare that parents and guardians cannot be involved with testing.

Is my child allowed to use the bathroom while testing?

- Yes. Your child is allowed a bathroom break. Your child should notify the teacher before leaving the computer for any reason.

Can my child eat while testing?

- Yes. Your child may eat while testing as long as it does not interfere with the child's concentration.

Can my child listen to music while testing?

- No. We ask that your child not have any other technology present during testing. This includes listening to music.

Can I view my child's answers to particular questions? Or at least which questions they missed?

- No. Test questions are not released to ensure test security. Specific information about questions missed or incorrect answers will not be provided.

Do the practice tests match the summative assessment in length, difficulty, or functionality?

What about the training tests?

- The practice tests match the summative assessments in length. They can be used to help assess some of the standards and your child's understanding of certain concepts.
- The training tests are designed to assist your child in becoming familiar with the available tools and how to take the assessment. They provide functions similar to the summative assessments, but they do not match the actual assessments in length or difficulty.

Downloading the Secure Browser on a Windows Computer

Downloading the
Secure Browser on a
Windows Computer



California Assessment of
Student Performance and Progress



ELPAC

English Language Proficiency
Assessments for California

Cómo descargar el navegador seguro en una computadora Windows

Cómo descargar el
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HOW LONG WILL THE SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS TAKE?

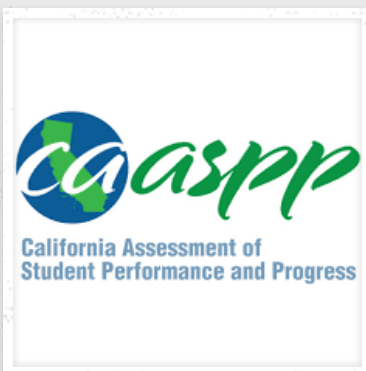
The estimated amount of time individual students need will depend on the grade level, content area, and type of items. The time estimates below reflect the time students will spend testing for each content area.

Due to COVID, the computer adaptive test (CAT) portion has been reduced by approximately 50 percent in math and ELA. Given that performance tasks (PTs) are designed to be integrated tasks, the blueprints associated with the PTs have not been adjusted. This results in a fifty percent reduction in the time needed to administer the CAT. This means that testing times for combined ELA or mathematics tests have been reduced by between one and a half and two hours across all grade spans. Please see the 20-21 estimates below:

Content Area	Grades	Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) hrs:mins	Performance Task (PT) hrs:mins	Total hrs:mins
ELA	3–5	0:45	2:00	2:45
ELA	6–8	0:45	2:00	2:45
ELA	11	1:00	2:00	3:00
Mathematics	3–5	0:45	1:00	1:45
Mathematics	6–8	1:00	1:00	2:00
Mathematics	11	1:00	1:30	2:30
Science	5, 8, & 12	2:00		2:00

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS?

All students have access to various accessibility tools they might need when taking the test, like a calculator on some math problems, a glossary when taking the reading part of the test, or a highlighter that they can use to highlight important parts of a long paragraph (*please note: students with disabilities may have additional supports/accommodations*). All of the accessibility resources help students gain fair access to the test and do not affect the students' scores in any way.



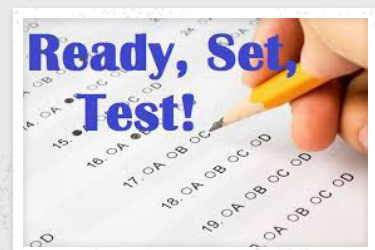
CAASPP RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Visit: <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>


HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENT GET READY FOR THE TEST?

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

- Discuss the test with your student. Make sure they are not afraid or anxious.
- Tell your student that you and their teacher have high expectations and that you are both there to help them every step of the way.
- Have your student take a practice test.



A baker has 159 cups of brown sugar and 264 cups of white sugar. How many total cups of sugar does the baker have?



IS THERE A PRACTICE TEST AVAILABLE?

The link below accesses both the practice and training tests portal. The practice tests provide students with grade-specific testing experiences that are similar in structure and format to the summative assessments. The training tests provide students with the opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features. The training tests are organized by grade bands (e.g., 3–5).

Please click on the Student Interface Practice & Training Tests, and it will log you in as a guest. The practice tests provide students with grade-specific testing experiences with content. The Training Tests provide students with the opportunity to become familiar with the testing tools.

Practice tests can be found at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



SMARTER BALANCED SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics



WHAT ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS?

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are part of California's system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The summative assessments are an annual measure of what students know and can do using the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy and mathematics.



WHY ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The purpose of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments is to assess student knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, as well as how much students have improved since the previous year (student growth). These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need for success in higher grades and become ready for college or a career.



WHO TAKES THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS?

All students in grades three through eight and grade eleven take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments unless a student's active individualized education program (IEP) designates the California Alternate Assessments.



HOW ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The Smarter Balanced Assessments are computer-adaptive tests that adjust the difficulty of questions on the basis of the answers students give. As students answer correctly, they receive more challenging questions. Incorrect answers trigger easier questions.

This approach helps keep students engaged, shortens testing time for many students, and provides more accurate results, especially for low- or high-achieving students.



WHEN ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are administered during the local educational agency's selected test window. Most schools will test between the middle of March and the middle of May.

For additional information, visit the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tl/sa/index.asp>.



September 2019



Starting Smarter



BE A PARTNER IN YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

Your child's score reports are tools to help you better understand whether your child is on track for success in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, or English language development. Use the student score reports along with the Starting Smarter websites to make a plan for supporting your child's learning.

EXPLORE YOUR CHILD'S TEST SCORE REPORTS



CHECK OUT SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS



ACCESS PARENT FRIENDLY RESOURCES



To learn more about your child's California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test scores, visit the Starting Smarter parent website for CAASPP assessments at <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>.

To learn more about your child's English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) test scores, visit the Starting Smarter parent website for the ELPAC at <https://elpac.startingsmarter.org/>.



April 2019

You play an important part in your child's success.
The California Department of Education is committed to making sure parents have the information they need to best support their children's learning.



Your child's score reports are tools to help you better understand whether your child is on track for success in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, or English language development. Use the student score reports along with the Starting Smarter websites to make a plan for supporting your child's learning.



To learn more about your child's California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test scores, visit the Starting Smarter parent website for CAASPP assessments at <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>.

[startsmartparentflyer.pdf](#)

drive.google.com

Los informes de puntuación son herramientas para ayudarte a comprender de una mejor manera si tu hijo(a) está en camino al éxito en los pruebas de lenguaje y lectoescritura en inglés y matemáticas o el desarrollo del idioma inglés. Utiliza los informes de puntuación junto con el portal del sitio web Starting Smarter para crear un plan de apoyo en el aprendizaje de tu hijo(a).



Para aprender más acerca de los resultados de las Evaluaciones del Desempeño y Progreso del Estado de California (CAASPP), por favor visita en inglés desde el portal del sitio web Starting Smarter y ve a la sección de las CAASPP: <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>.

[startsmartparentspaespanol.pdf](#)

drive.google.com



CALIFORNIA SCIENCE TEST



WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE TEST?

The California Science Test (CAST) is part of California's system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

The CAST measures what students know and can do using the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), which focus on understanding the scientific concepts found in the Life Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Physical Sciences. These standards integrate the Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Crosscutting Concepts to help students understand how science works in the natural world.



WHY IS THE CAST GIVEN?

The purposes of the CAST are to assess student knowledge and skills in science and to foster science education at every grade level. In addition, the CAST encourages students to build the knowledge and skills needed for college and careers.



WHO TAKES THE CAST?

All students in grades five and eight and one time in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve) take the CAST unless a student's individualized education program (IEP) designates the California Alternate Assessment. The California Department of Education recommends testing high school students when they are enrolled in their last science course. High schools have the option to test any or all students in grades ten or eleven as long as all students have been tested by grade twelve.



HOW IS THE CAST GIVEN?

The CAST is a computer-based test that consists of stand-alone questions as well as two or three performance tasks. Performance tasks require students to solve a series of related questions. Testing should take approximately two hours to complete.



WHEN IS THE CAST GIVEN?

The CAST will be administered during the school's selected testing window. Most schools will test between the middle of March and the middle of May.



WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE TEST?

The California Science Test (CAST) is part of California's system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The CAST measures what students know and can do using the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), which focus on understanding the scientific concepts found in the Life Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Physical Sciences. These standards integrate the Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Crosscutting Concepts to help students understand how science works in the natural world.

We encourage you to have your child tested because we believe that test results provide valuable information about your child for both you and our school. Participation is confidential and your child's grades will not be affected. California Education Code section 60615 allows a parent or guardian to submit a written request to school officials to exclude his or her child from any or all parts of state-mandated assessments. Section 852 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations further provides that parents or guardians may annually submit a written request to the school to excuse their child from any or all parts of CAASPP for the school year.

If a parent requests that their child be exempted from CAASPP testing, the parent must do the following:

- Request in writing that their child be exempted from the CAASPP tests.
- Email a signed copy of your request to Principal Ciolino at Sabrina.Ciolino@peak-prep.org

The letter should include the following information:

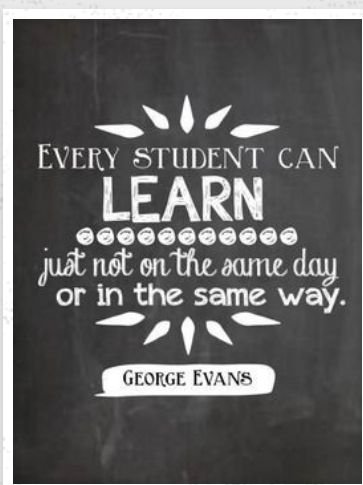
- Child's full name
- Date of birth
- Grade level
- Indicate which tests you want your student exempted from (All CAASPP test or any specific content area: English, Math, or Science). *A parent can exempt their student from just one or all of the required CAASPP tests.*
- Wet signature (pen on paper) and date the request.
- A way to contact you (such as a cell phone or email address).



Please note: We require a separate letter for each student.

You do not need to provide a reason for your request. Be sure to sign and date the request. Please note that, per state guidelines, if your request is received after testing has begun, any test(s) started before the request is received will be completed, scored and the results reported to you and included in the student's records.

If your student does not participate in testing they will be expected to complete classwork in the LMS.



We are committed to your student's academic success and devoted to ensuring that each student has the support they need to succeed. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I am here to support you.

Regards,

Mrs. Sabrina Ciolino

Principal

Peak Prep Pleasant Valley

Mobile: 415-320-1401

Email: sabrina.ciolino@peak-prep.org

Website: peak-prep.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/peakprep/>

Address: 2150 Pickwick Drive #304 Camarillo, CA 93010



PEAK PREP PLEASANT VALLEY

Facebook @peakpreppv

2150 Pickwick Drive #304 Ca...

info@peak-prep.org

855-900-7325

peak-prep.org

