



California Alternate Assessments: Guidance on Assessing Students Using Eye-Gaze as a Response Method



For the newly developed California Alternate Assessment (CAA) items, there are some unique aspects to consider for students who use eye-gaze as their primary response method:

- Each student has a unique eye-gaze method and each teacher/CAA Test Examiner has a method of noting and responding to it.
- Students have methods of presentation unique to them and unique to the activities they undertake in the classroom environment.
- Teachers know their students and which methods best capture student responses during the administration of an assessment like the CAA.

For some of the new CAA item types, there are certain features within the item which can aid CAA Test Examiners administering the CAA to students who predominantly use eye-gaze. Please remember that not all items may lend themselves to administration to a student who responds with an eye-gaze. For the Field Test, it is permissible to skip these items should it be too challenging for the student who responds with eye-gaze.

The following item types are likely to prove to be the most accessible to students who respond with eye-gaze:

- **Numeric Entry** items (mathematics)—To assist the student, use or create an enlarged ten-touch key pad appropriately sized for distinguishing an eye-gaze.
- **Hot Spot** items (English language arts/literacy [ELA] and mathematics)—
 - If the item has answer choices, the answer choices can be printed and cut apart.
 - If the item does not have answer choices and must be answered within the item, there is not a standardized way for the CAA Test Examiner to distinguish one zone from another.
- **Drag and Drop** items (ELA and mathematics)—The options (i.e., the part of the item to be dragged and then dropped into the stem) can be printed, cut apart, and pointed at for eye-gaze purposes.
- **Grid** items (mathematics)—A numeric or alphabetic value can be assigned to the grid and then cards might be used for the eye-gaze.
- **Multiple-Choice** items (ELA and mathematics)—The options can be printed and placed in letter order for eye-gaze.

Please note that methods for increasing accessibility to the CAA for students using eye-gaze are not limited to those mentioned in this list. Administer CAA items in the manner that best suits the needs of each student.