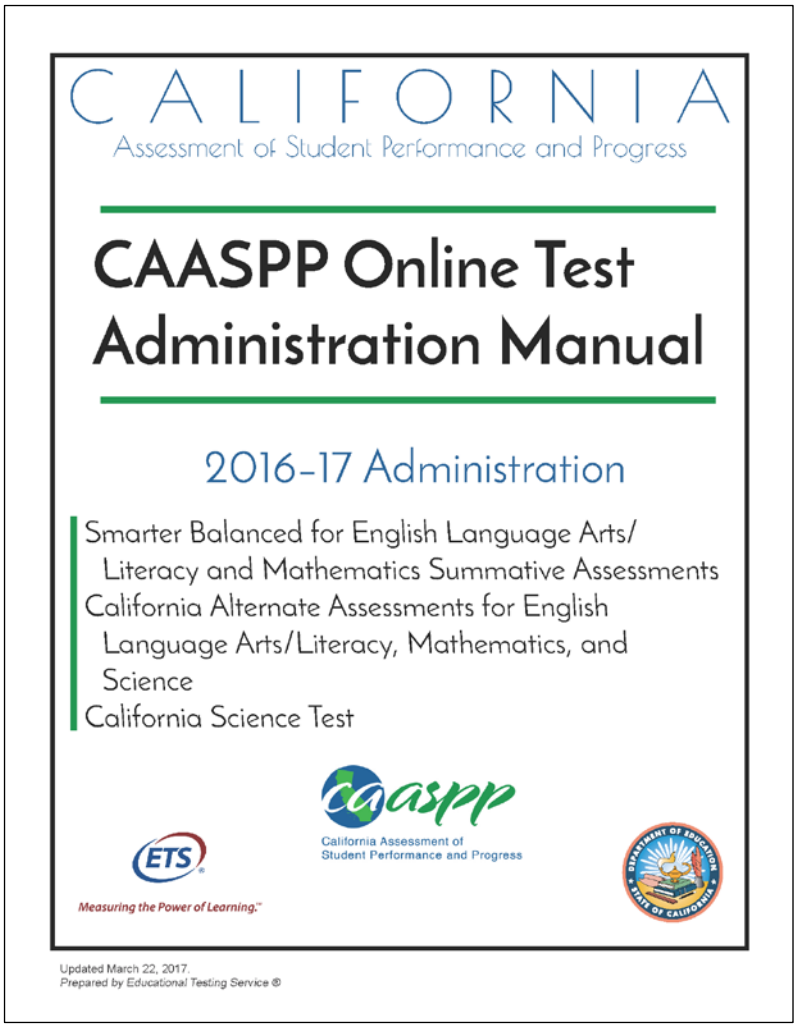
Chapter 5. Pilot of the Science Assessments



All Roles

Administration Information for the California Science Test (CAST)

Additional Resources:

- California Department of Education (CDE) Science Assessments Web page—http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp
- CDE 2016–17 CA Student Assessment Accessibility Web page—http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/accesssupportitems.asp
- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) California Science Test (CAST) Web page—http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/science/
- CAASPP High School Grade Assignments for Science Tests Web page—http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/science/science-assignments.html
- *TOMS Pre-Administration Guide for CAASPP Testing* Web document—http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.TOMS-pre-admin-guide.2016-17.pdf
- *Day of Test Administration: Directions for Administration*
- Test Administrator Post-Testing Survey for the CAST—http://www.caaspp.org/cast-survey.html

Overview of the Assessment

The California Science Test (CAST) is an online, summative assessment based on the California Next Generation Science Standards. All local educational agencies (LEAs) with eligible students in grades five and eight will administer the CAST pilot. Schools with eligible students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve will administer the test to students in one of these grades; high school grade assignments are listed on the High School Grade Assignments for Science Tests Web page on the CAASPP Portal. Once it has been determined which high school grade is to be administered and the assignments are made for students by the Test Operations Management System (TOMS), LEA CAASPP coordinators or CAASPP test site coordinators will be able to assign appropriate test settings for these students in TOMS, and test administrators will be able to approve these students for testing within the Test Administrator Interface.

The CAST pilot uses the current CAASPP test delivery system and will be administered online only. The CAST is to be administered within the LEA's selected testing window and will be available for administration on and after March 20, 2017. The selected testing window also must provide 25 instructional days for administering the CAST.

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Purpose of the Pilot Test

Test Questions

The pilot test will assess the performance of newly developed California Next Generation Science Standards–aligned item types/items, including technology-enhanced items that involve the use of dynamic stimuli and other types of new media (e.g., simulated experiments). It will also test the functionality of items with regard to science content rendered by the test delivery system.

Students will not receive scores for the pilot test; however, student participation data will be collected and reported for accountability.

Survey

After students have finished testing, they will complete a survey to report on their experience with the CAST. The survey appears at the end of their test in the test delivery system. The survey is estimated to take an additional five to seven minutes.

Note: Because student embedded designated supports and accommodations are not applicable for the survey, students who used these features during the test may require test administrator assistance to complete the survey, which may result in a student needing approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete the survey. (For example, a student who used the braille accommodation might need to have survey questions read aloud by the test administrator, who would then enter the student's responses.)

Test administrators also will be asked to respond to a survey on a Web site outside of the test delivery system, which they may complete at any point during the LEA's test administration window. The test administrator survey must be completed before July 17, 2017.

Survey data will be analyzed and summarized once all CAASPP testing windows have closed.

Resources

Test Administrator Materials

Directions for CAST administration, including instructions on approving tests and the script that must be read prior to test administration, can be found in *Day of Test Administration: Directions for Administration*.

The test administrator survey is available by accessing the external Web address at http://www.caaspp.org/cast-survey.html.

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Student Accessibility Supports

The complete list of embedded and non-embedded universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available for the CAST are listed on the CDE 2016–17 CA Student Assessment Accessibility Web page.

Tests will include embedded and non-embedded universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations; however, not all supports available for the CAASPP English language arts/literacy and mathematics tests are available for the CAST because the purpose of the pilot is to test item functionality. A fuller range of accessibility supports will be available for the field test and the operational assessment.

User Responsibilities

Table 13 shows the tasks CAASPP users perform for the CAST pilot:

Table 13. User Role Participation in the CAST Pilot

Role	Task
LEA CAASPP coordinator	• Distribute the test assignments downloaded from the High School Grade Assignments for Science Tests Web page on the CAASPP Portal (grade ten, grade eleven, grade twelve) to high schools within the LEA. • Create the users at schools involved in the CAST pilot. • Provide training to CAASPP test site coordinators and test administrators.
CAASPP test site coordinator	• Work with the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System coordinator to ensure that students are in the correct grades. • Participate in training provided by the LEA.
Test administrator	• Participate in training provided by the LEA. • Administer the CAST. • If necessary, assist students who tested with embedded designated supports and/or accommodations take the post-testing survey. • Take the test administrator survey.

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Administration Information for the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science

Additional Resources:

- California Department of Education (CDE) Science Assessments Web page—http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp
- CDE California Alternate Assessments (CAA) Web page—http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp
- CDE 2016–17 CA Student Assessment Accessibility Web page—http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/accesssupportitems.asp
- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) CAA Web page—http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/caa/
- CAASPP Test Operations Management System (TOMS) Web site—https://caaspp.ets.org
- CAASPP High School Grade Assignments for Science Tests Web page—http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/science/science-assignments.html
- *TOMS Pre-Administration Guide for CAASPP Testing* Web document—http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.TOMS-pre-admin-guide.2016-17.pdf
- Test Examiner Post-Testing Survey for the CAA for Science—http://www.caaspp.org/caa-science-survey.html

Overview of the Assessment

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is a summative assessment based on the California Next Generation Science Standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. This assessment offers a developmentally appropriate opportunity for these students to be assessed on their science knowledge, skills, and abilities while providing meaningful information about academic performance to both students and teachers.

All local educational agencies (LEAs) with eligible students in grades five and eight will administer the CAA for Science pilot. Schools with eligible students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve will administer the test to students in one of these grades. High school students in an ungraded program whose calculated grade is the one assigned to their high school will also take this assessment. Calculate a student's grade by subtracting five from his or her chronological age on September 1, 2016.

High school grade assignments are listed on the High School Grade Assignments for Science Tests Web page on the CAASPP Portal. Once it has been determined which high school grade is to be administered and the assignments are made for students by TOMS, LEA CAASPP coordinators or CAASPP test site coordinators will be able to assign appropriate test settings for these students in TOMS.

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Students in grades five, either, and either ten, eleven, or twelve (as assigned) who meet the following eligibility requirements will take the CAA for Science:

- The student has a significant cognitive disability that is described in the student's individualized education program;
- The student is learning content derived from the California content standards; and
- The student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains in the grade and age-appropriate curriculum.

The CAA for Science embedded PT may be administered between March 20, 2017—the date on which the embedded PTs become available—and the end of the LEA's selected testing window, even if March 20 occurs before the selected testing window for the LEA opens. However, the post-testing student survey only will be available during the selected testing window so must be completed before this window closes. If the LEA's selected testing window opens before March 20, it still must provide 25 instructional days for administering the CAA for Science.

Purpose of the Pilot Test

Embedded Performance Tasks (PTs)

The CAA for Science pilot is administered one on one by a test examiner as an embedded performance task (PT) that will be available to test examiners in PDF form. The test examiner reads an embedded PT to a student and uses a rubric to determine the student's score for that task. The pilot test will assess the performance of newly developed California Next Generation Science Standards–aligned embedded PTs. Students will not receive scores for the pilot test; however, student participation data will be collected and reported for accountability.

Printed embedded PTs and/or other paper materials that have been used for transcribing student responses to the CAA for Science pilot should be collected from test examiners and sent to LEA CAASPP coordinators for secure storage for at least one year. The CAASPP test site coordinator should work with his or her LEA CAASPP coordinator to determine the best means by which student test responses for the CAA for Science pilot should be collected from the test examiner and sent to the LEA CAASPP coordinator.

Surveys

The test examiner survey collects general reactions on the CAA for Science pilot. The post-testing student survey is student-specific and must be completed for each student presented with the CAA for Science.

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Student Survey

	Warning: The student post-testing survey must be completed and entered into the test delivery system for the student to be counted as participating in the 2016–17 CAA for Science pilot, even if the student did not respond to the embedded PT.
	Note: It is completion and submittal of the student survey that indicates a student's participation for CAASPP Completion Status reporting.
	Alert: Each student survey question has a "No response" option that may be selected if the student did not respond to the survey question. **This option applies only to a lack of student response to survey questions and *not* to a lack of response by the student during the embedded PT.**

Immediately after students have finished testing, they will answer a two-question survey to report on their experience with the CAA for Science. The survey is estimated to take less than five minutes and should be administered as soon as possible after testing to elicit the most authentic reaction to the embedded PT from the student. **The results of the student survey must be entered in the test delivery system prior to the close of LEA's selected test administration window.**

The survey questions are included at the end of the embedded PT instructions PDF that is downloaded from TOMS. The test examiner should administer the survey questions to the student immediately after the student has completed the embedded PT, either entering student survey responses directly into the test delivery system or transcribing responses externally, for later entry into the test delivery system. For accountability purposes, student survey responses must be entered into the test delivery system for the student to be counted as participating in the 2016–17 CAA for Science pilot. The dates the test delivery system is available are determined by the LEA's selected test administration window.

Test Examiner Survey

Test examiners also will be asked to respond to a general online survey, found on a Web site outside of the test delivery system, which they may complete at any time after administering the CAA for Science to students. Because the test examiner survey asks general questions and is not student-specific, the test examiner responds to the survey only once. The test examiner survey must be completed before July 17, 2017.

Test Examiner Resources

Directions for CAA for Science administration are found in the secure embedded PTs that are to be downloaded from TOMS. CAASPP test site coordinators or test examiners should download the CAA for Science embedded performance task (PT) by first selecting the [**Help**] icon in TOMS and then downloading the file for the appropriate grade-level assessment.

The test examiner survey is available by accessing the external Web address, at http://www.caaspp.org/caa-science-survey.html.

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User Responsibilities

Table 14 shows the tasks CAASPP users perform for the CAA for Science pilot:

Table 14. User Role Participation in the CAA for Science Pilot

Role	Task
LEA CAASPP coordinator	• Distribute the test assignments downloaded from the High School Grade Assignments for Science Tests Web page on the CAASPP Portal (grade ten, grade eleven, grade twelve) to high schools within the LEA. • Create the users at schools involved in the CAA for Science pilot. • Provide training to CAASPP test site coordinators and test examiners.
CAASPP test site coordinator	• Work with the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System coordinator to ensure that students are in the correct grades. • Participate in training provided by the LEA.
Test examiner	• Receive training by completing an online learning module, the CAA Test Administration Tutorial, and/or receiving a local training provided by the LEA. • Administer the CAA for Science. • Administer the post-testing student survey. • Take the test examiner survey.

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