Chapter 5. Science Assessments

CALIFORNIA
Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

CAASPP
California Assessment of
Student Performance and Progress

CAASPP Online Test Administration Manual

2018-19 Administration

Smarter Balanced for English Language Arts/
Literacy and Mathematics Summative Assessments
California Alternate Assessments for English
Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, and
Science
California Science Test
California Spanish Assessment

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Posted January 8, 2019
Prepared by Educational Testing Service ®

Administration Information for the California Science Test (CAST)

> **Resources in This Section:**
>
> - California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) California Science Test (CAST) web page—http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/science/
> - CAASPP Practice and Training Tests website—linked on the CAASPP Online Practice and Training Tests Portal at http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/
> - CAASPP Test Administrator and Test Examiner Resources for the Online Practice and Training Tests web page—http://www.caaspp.org/ta-resources/practice-training.html
> - California Department of Education (CDE) California Science Test web page—https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp
> - CDE Student Accessibility Resources web page—https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/accesssupport.asp
> - Chapter 8: Scripts for Administering Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the California Science Test to Students subsection in this document
> - *Test Operations Management System (TOMS) TOMS Pre-Administration Guide for CAASPP Testing* web document—http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.TOMS-pre-admin-guide.2018-19.pdf

Overview of the Assessment

The California Science Test (CAST) is an online, summative assessment based on the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS). All local educational agencies (LEAs) with eligible students in grades five, eight, and twelve are required to administer the CAST. Schools with eligible students in grades ten and eleven whom the LEA recommends to take a science assessment also may take the CAST. Students who take the CAST while their testing grade is grade ten or eleven cannot retake the CAST in grade eleven or twelve.

All students will receive their CAST scores in a Student Score Report after they have tested. Scores for students in grades ten and eleven who take the CAST will be saved and reported for accountability purposes when those students are in grade twelve.

Survey

Students in grades five and eight will complete a three-question survey that appears at the end of their test in the test delivery system. Students in high school will complete a four-question survey. The survey is estimated to take an additional five minutes. Its intent is to gather more information about the student's experience with the CAST and science in general.

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 Chapter 8: Scripts for Administering Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the California Science Test to Students.

Student Accessibility Resources

The complete list of embedded and non-embedded universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available for the CAST are listed on the CDE Student Accessibility Resources web page.

Tests will include embedded and non-embedded universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations.

Practice and Training Tests

Practice and training tests for the CAST are linked on the CAASPP Practice and Training Tests Portal. Practice tests can be accessed either through the secure browser or through a standard internet browser. Scoring guides are available on the Test Administrator and Test Examiner Resources for the Online Practice and Training Tests web page.

User Responsibilities

Table 11 shows the tasks CAASPP users perform for the CAST:

Table 11. User Role Participation in the CAST

Role	Task
LEA CAASPP coordinator	• Create the users at schools involved in the CAST • Set up test administrations • Assign student designated supports, accommodations, or unlisted resources • 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 • Assign student designated supports, accommodations, or unlisted resources • Participate in training provided by the LEA
Test administrator	• Participate in training provided by the LEA or test site coordinator • Administer the CAST

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

Resources in This Section:

- CAA for Science Administration Planning Guide for Test Examiners web documents—linked on the CAA web page at http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/caa/

- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) CAA web page—http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/caa/

- CAASPP Practice and Training Tests website—linked on the CAASPP Online Practice and Training Tests Portal at http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/

- CAASPP Test Administrator and Test Examiner Resources for the Online Practice and Training Tests web page—http://www.caaspp.org/ta-resources/practice-training.html

- CAASPP Test Operations Management System (TOMS) website—https://caaspp.ets.org/

- California Department of Education (CDE) California Science Test web page—https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp

- CDE California Alternate Assessments (CAA) web page—https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp

- CDE Student Accessibility Resources web page—https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/accesssupport.asp

- Test Examiner Post-Testing Survey for the CAA for Science—http://www.caaspp.org/caa-science-survey.html

- *TOMS Pre-Administration Guide for CAASPP Testing* web document—http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.TOMS-pre-admin-guide.2018-19.pdf

Overview of the Assessment

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is an online, summative assessment based on the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) 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, eight, and twelve will administer the field test for the CAA for Science. Students in grades ten and eleven whom

the LEA recommends to take a science assessment and whose individualized education program (IEP) indicates an alternate assessment may be assigned to take the CAA for Science.

Students in grades five, eight, twelve, or ten or eleven 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 IEP;

- the student is learning content derived from the California content standards; and

- the student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial resources to achieve measurable gains in the grade and age-appropriate curriculum.

The CAA for Science embedded performance tasks (PTs) may be administered between January 8, 2019—the date on which the embedded PTs become available—through the final day of the LEA's instructional calendar or July 15, 2019, whichever comes first.

Purpose of the Field Test

Embedded PTs

The CAA for Science field test is administered one on one by a test examiner as **three embedded PTs**. A student must sign on to all three embedded PTs to be considered as participating. Directions for administration of each embedded PT is available as a PDF that can be downloaded from the Test Operations Management System (TOMS). The field test will assess the performance of newly developed embedded PTs that measure two Core Content Connectors that are derived from the CA NGSS.

Printed embedded PTs and any other paper materials that have been used for transcribing student responses to the CAA for Science field test should be collected from test examiners and destroyed securely.

Surveys

Test examiners will be asked to respond to an optional, general, online survey, found on a website outside of the CAASPP assessment systems, 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 15, 2019.

The test examiner survey is available online.

Test Window

Test examiners may administer all three required CAA for Science performance tasks within the test delivery system at any time during the normal course of instruction between January 8, 2019, and the final day of the LEA's instructional calendar or July 15, whichever comes first.

Test Examiner Resources

> ⚠️ **Alert:** Only download individual *DFA* PDFs when needed to administer an embedded PT to a student. Permanently delete or destroy the *DFA* following administration. Do not download and retain multiple *DFAs* for extended periods.

Directions for Administration

Directions for CAA for Science administration are found in the three grade-level secure embedded PTs that are to be downloaded from TOMS. CAASPP test site coordinators or test examiners should download the CAA for Science embedded PTs by first selecting the [**Secure Materials**] button in TOMS and then downloading the files for the appropriate grade-level assessment.

Practice and Training Tests

Training PTs for the CAA for Science are linked on the CAASPP [Practice and Training Tests Portal](#). Students can take a practice test using a web browser.

Planning Guides

Planning guides are available for grade-level CAA for Science assessments in grades five and eight and high school. The guides, which do not include test content, can be used to plan and schedule CAA for Science testing. The guides identify the science standards that are assessed by the CAA for Science during the 2018–19 school year and provide information about how the embedded performance tasks are to be delivered. The planning guides are linked on the CAASPP [CAA](#) web page.

User Responsibilities

Table 12 shows the tasks CAASPP users perform for the CAA for Science field test:

Table 12. User Role Participation in the CAA for Science Field Test

Role	Task
LEA CAASPP coordinator	• Create the users at schools involved in the CAA for Science field test • Set up test administrations • Assign student designated supports, accommodations, or unlisted resources • Provide training to CAASPP test site coordinators and test examiners • Review the *CAA for Science Administration Planning Guides*

Role	Task
CAASPP test site coordinator	• Work with the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System coordinator to ensure that students are in the correct grades • Assign student designated supports, accommodations, or unlisted resources • Participate in training provided by the LEA
Test examiner	• Receive training by completing the CAA Test Administration Tutorial online learning module • Administer each embedded PT at the appropriate time for each student • Take the test examiner survey