
Chapter 5. Science Assessments



Additional Resource for This Chapter:

- CAASPP List of Acronyms and Initialisms web page—
<http://www.caaspp.org/about/abbreviations.html>

 2019–2020 TEST ADMINISTRATION

CAASPP Online Test Administration Manual




California Assessment of
Student Performance and Progress

- 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

Administration Information for the CAST



Resources in This Section:

- CAASPP and ELPAC TOMS User Guide web document—
<http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP-ELPAC.toms-guide.2019-20.pdf>
- 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 web page 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>
- 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](#) subsection in this document

Overview of the Assessment

The CAST is an online, summative assessment based on the CA NGSS. All 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. Students repeating grade twelve are not eligible to test.

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](#).

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](#) web page. 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 10](#) shows the tasks CAASPP users perform for the CAST:

Table 10. User Role Participation in the CAST

Role	Task
LEA CAASPP coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the users at schools involved in the CAST • Set up test administrations and assign schools to the administrations • Assign student designated supports, accommodations, or request unlisted resources • Provide training to CAASPP test site coordinators
CAASPP test site coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the CALPADS 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 • Provide training to CAST test administrators
Test administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in training provided by the LEA or test site coordinator • Administer the CAST

Administration Information for the CAA for Science

Resources in This Section:

- *CAA for Science Administration Planning Guide for Test Examiners* web documents—linked on the CAA for Science Administration Planning Guides web page at <http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/caa/caa-for-science-administration-planning-guide.html>
- *CAASPP and ELPAC TOMS User Guide* web document—<http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP-ELPAC.toms-guide.2019-20.pdf>
- 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 web page 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>
- CAA for Science Version Assignments for 2019–20 Test Administration web page—<http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/caa/caa-science-assignments.2019-20.html>
- CDE California Alternate Assessments (CAA) web page—<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>
- 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>
- Test Examiner Post-Testing Survey for the CAA for Science web page—<http://www.caaspp.org/caa-science-survey.html>
- Test Operations Management System website—<https://mytoms.ets.org/>

Overview of the Assessment

The CAA for Science is an online, summative assessment based on the 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 LEAs with eligible students in grades five, eight, and twelve will administer the CAA for Science. Students in grades ten and eleven whom the student’s IEP team recommends to

take a science assessment and whose IEP indicates an alternate assessment may be assigned to take the CAA for Science. Students repeating grade twelve are not eligible to test.

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 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 Assessment

Embedded PTs

The CAA for Science is administered one on one as **four embedded PTs** by a test examiner during the course of instruction and shortly after instruction of related science content is complete. A student must sign on to all four embedded PTs to be considered as participating. Directions for administration of each embedded PT is available as a PDF that can be downloaded from TOMS. The assessment will evaluate the performance of newly developed embedded PTs that measure two Core Content Connectors that are derived from the CA NGSS. Test examiners should use the “No Response” button functionality within the test delivery system for students who do not respond to the test but are presented with test questions.

Any paper materials that have been used for transcribing student responses to the CAA for Science 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, that 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, 2020.

There are two student surveys at the end of each performance task, one for students who are responsive and one for students who are nonresponsive. Test examiners should administer only the applicable survey and skip the other survey.

Testing Window

Test examiners may administer all four required CAA for Science embedded PTs within the test delivery system at any time during the normal course of instruction between September 9, 2019, and the final day of the LEA's instructional calendar or July 15, 2020, whichever comes first.

The CAA for Science is administered one on one shortly after the student has received related science instruction in the classroom. While testing should take approximately 60 to 100 minutes per embedded PT, the assessments are untimed, and the amount of time each student needs can vary. Tests may be administered to a student over as many testing sessions and days as required to meet the needs of that student. It is not recommended that students be administered more than one CAA for Science embedded PT per test session.

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 four grade-level, secure embedded PTs that are to be downloaded from TOMS. They are sorted by grade level and version number. Version assignments are found on the [CAA for Science Version Assignments](#) web page.

CAASPP test site coordinators or test examiners should download the CAA for Science *DFAs* by taking the following steps in TOMS:

1. Select the [**Resources**] navigation tab on the [TOMS](#) top navigation bar.
2. Select *CAAs for Science DFAs* from the *Available Materials* list.
3. Select the button corresponding with the grade being tested.
4. Scroll down the page to find the version number assigned.
5. Select a PDF link to initiate the download process.

Practice and Training Tests

Training PTs and the practice test for the CAA for Science are linked on the CAASPP [Practice and Training Tests Portal](#) web page. Students can take these tests using either a secure browser or 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 2019–2020 school year and provide information about how the embedded PTs are to be delivered.

The planning guides are linked on the CAASPP [CAA for Science Administration Planning Guides](#) web page. They are sorted by grade and version number. Version assignments are found on the [CAA for Science Version Assignments](#) web page.

User Responsibilities

[Table 11](#) shows the tasks CAASPP users perform for the CAA for Science:

Table 11. User Role Participation in the CAA for Science

Role	Task
LEA CAASPP coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the users at schools involved in the CAA for Science • Set up test administrations • Assign student designated supports, accommodations, or unlisted resources • Provide training to CAASPP test site coordinators • Review the <i>CAA for Science Administration Planning Guides</i>
CAASPP test site coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the CALPADS 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 • Provide training to CAASPP test site coordinators and test examiners
CAASPP Test examiner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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