

The following resources are designed for classroom educators to support their understanding of the California Science Test (CAST). Additional resources for site administrators to use when communicating to parents/guardians and others about the CAST assessment also are provided.

### Fact Sheet

Answers general questions about various aspects and objectives of the CAST

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castfactsheet.pdf>

### CAST Informational Video

A six-minute video that provides a general overview of the CAST and how it is aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/castinfovideo.asp>

### Parent Guide to Understanding

Designed for parents and guardians to address basic questions, such as who takes the CAST, why, when, and how; may be shared during back to school night, at teacher conferences, with annual Student Score Reports, or in other settings as needed

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castpgtu.pdf>

### Practice and Training Tests

Opportunities to become familiar with the types of test questions that may appear on the CAST:

- Online Practice and Training Test Portal  
Provides direct access to the CAST online training and practice tests for students in grades five and eight and high school; scoring guides and rubrics also available  
<http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>
- Training Test Flyer  
Information to introduce students, parents/guardians, and teachers to the training tests  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/casttrainingtests.pdf>
- How to Start a Training Test  
Step-by-step instructions for how to access and start a training test  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castqrtraining.pdf>
- How to Start a Practice Test  
Step-by-step instructions for how to access and start a practice test  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castqrpractice.pdf>

### **CAST Item Specifications**

Connects the Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Crosscutting Concepts elements to the phenomena and prompts used in the development of the CAST items; can serve as an important tool along with the *2016 Science Framework for California Public Schools* for educators to use to gain a better understanding of the three-dimensional nature of the CAST

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/castitemspecs.asp>

### **How to Start a Test Session**

Step-by-step instructions for how to access and start a test session

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/casttestsessionqrg.pdf>

## **For Site Administrators**

### **Talking About the CAASPP**

PowerPoint templates for site administrators to use when talking with parents/guardians about the CAASPP assessments

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/talkingparentascaaspp.pptx>

### **High School Test Administration**

Provides guidance for determining when high school students must take the CAST

<http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.CAST.Administration-for-high-school.2018-19.pdf>

### **Suggested Pausing Points for the CAST**

Provides an overview of how the CAST is structured and offers suggested pausing points if testing takes place over multiple sessions

<http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.CAST.Suggested-Pausing-Points.2018-19.pdf>

### **Parent Notification Letter**

Sample letter templates for use in releasing and reporting the science assessment results

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caaspprtscrptltr.asp>

