Dear LEA CAASPP Coordinator:

In 2016, the California Department of Education and Educational Testing Service began developing a test that measures Spanish reading/language arts skills. This test, called the California Spanish Assessment (CSA), is part of the CAASPP System.

This new computer-based assessment is designed to measure students' Spanish skills in reading, writing mechanics, and listening. Once operational, the CSA will provide aggregate data that may be used for evaluating Spanish language arts programs at the local level. It may also provide a high school measure suitable to be used, in part, for the State Seal of Biliteracy.

The CSA is now in its field test phase and **all local educational agencies (LEAs) are invited to participate in the field test,** which takes place **from September 17 through October 12, 2018.** The purpose of the CSA field test is to gather test response data from students representing diverse backgrounds and geographic locations throughout the state.

This is the last chance for LEAs to confirm their participation in the CSA field test. Any number of school sites with students in grades four through twelve who possess Spanish reading/language arts skills are welcome to participate in the field test. **We are especially encouraging schools with students in grade nine to participate.**

The CSA field test will use the same systems and processes as all of the other CAASPP tests (Test Operations Management System [TOMS], CAASPP secure browser, etc.). This is a great opportunity for your LEA to have a first look into the test, while also having your students' responses be part of data reviews that will inform the 2018–19 operational assessment.

If you would like to get a better understanding of the content that will be on the CSA, please access the available CSA training test. The training test is nonsecure and can be accessed by students, parents, and school staff.

Who is eligible to take the CSA field test?

Any student in grades four through eight and high school who will likely take the operational CSA test—i.e., students receiving instruction in Spanish, Spanish-speaking English learners, and/or students seeking a measure that recognizes their Spanish-specific reading, writing mechanics, and listening skills—are eligible to take the CSA field test.

How is the CSA field test administered?

The CSA field test is administered through the CAASPP test delivery system online. The estimated testing time is 3.5 to 4 hours, depending on the student's grade level.

My LEA is interested! What are the next steps?

1. Communicate information regarding the CSA and the CSA field test to your school sites.

   o You can use the general CSA Fact Sheet, CSA Frequently Asked Questions, or the CSA web page as resources.

2. Distribute the CSA Field Test Participation Survey to your participating test site coordinators and have them complete it as soon as possible.

   o The survey will ask your test site coordinators for the estimated number of students per grade level who will participate in the field test, the types of Spanish language instructional programs that are offered at the school, and the type of curriculum offered. Please ensure that your test site coordinators are equipped with this information before they fill out the survey.

3. Register the students for the CSA field test in TOMS. The CSA field test registration will be available September 4, 2018.

If you have additional questions, please contact the CSA Program Administrator, Marques Barron, by email at mbarron@ets.org.

Sincerely,

The CSA Program Team
Educational Testing Service