



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

TONY THURMOND
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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January 29, 2019

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

Science—It's Elementary!

To showcase the importance of using formative assessment practices to support learning, and as part of a statewide effort to raise awareness about the importance of science education starting in the early primary grades, the California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce a new contest, *Science: It's Elementary!* Open to kindergarten through grade five California public school teachers, the CDE is calling for submissions demonstrating the use of the formative assessment process in the study of science. The contest seeks to feature classrooms where the formative assessment process is used to guide the study of science phenomena based on the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).

Finalists will be interviewed and a video produced that will be used for California educator voting. Finalists also will be invited to attend the first annual California Assessment Conference, October 16–18, 2019, where the winner will be announced. The winner will receive up to \$1,000 in prize money for science resources for the classroom.

Eligibility and submission requirements, contest entry forms, and more information can be found at <http://caaspp.org/ta-resources/science-its-elementary.html>. Submissions are due **March 22, 2019**. The top entries will be voted on statewide, with the winner being announced in late fall 2019.

The CDE is committed to establishing an innovative system of assessments that support teachers and students throughout the year to ensure that all California students are well prepared for college and careers in today's competitive global economy.

If you have any questions regarding this contest, please contact Kasia Faughn, Project Specialist II, Sacramento County Office of Education at kfaughn@scoe.net.

Sincerely,

/s/

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent
Performance, Planning & Technology Branch