

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>
- Practice and Training Test Flyer
Information to introduce students, parents/guardians, and teachers to the practice and training tests
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castpracticetraining.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

Connect 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>

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

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/sciencetestadminhs.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

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

Using the Online Practice and Training Tests Video

A short tutorial intended to demonstrate how to access and use practice and training tests to prepare students to participate in online assessments

<http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/2018-19/videos/Test-Administration.Using-the-Online-Practice-and-Training-Tests.html>

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>

