

# California Alternate Assessment for Science Pilot Year 2



## WHAT IS THE ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT FOR SCIENCE?

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is part of California's state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Currently under development, the CAA for Science will undergo a second year of pilot testing in 2017–18, field testing in 2018–19, and operational administration in 2019–20.

Designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the CAA for Science is an annual measure of what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards. Known as the Core Content Connectors, these standards are aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).



### WHY IS THE CAA FOR SCIENCE GIVEN?

The purpose of the CAA for Science is to measure what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need.

The purpose of the year 2 pilot test is to allow educators to try out performance task items and become familiar with the practice of embedding performance tasks into classroom instruction.



### WHO TAKES THE CAA FOR SCIENCE?

Students are eligible to take the CAA for Science only if it is indicated in their active individualized education program (IEP) by the IEP team.

The year 2 pilot test will be administered to eligible students in grades five and eight. For grades ten, eleven, and twelve, certain students will be expected to participate on the basis of the last science course they completed.



### HOW IS THE CAA FOR SCIENCE GIVEN?

The CAAs are administered one-on-one by a trained test examiner who is familiar with the student and his or her needs.

The year 2 pilot test consists of three embedded performance tasks, a collection of activities and questions administered after related concepts are taught to the students. Performance tasks allow teachers to determine the best time to administer tasks, and allow students to demonstrate what they know and can do in a less burdensome environment.

Test Examiners will enter a student's scores for each performance task into the Data Entry Interface System.



## WHEN IS THE CAA FOR SCIENCE GIVEN?

2017–18

2018–19

2019–20

**YEAR 2 PILOT TEST\***

November 2017–July 2018

**FIELD TEST\***

September 2018–July 2019

**OPERATIONAL**

September 2019–July 2020

\* Until development of the test has been completed and reviewed, no student scores or aggregated results will be released.





# Available Resources

FOR THE

## California Alternate Assessment for Science Pilot Year 2

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science pilot year 2 is administered to all eligible students in grades five and eight. Beginning in the 2017–18 school year, high school students have only one opportunity to take the CAA for Science in grade ten, eleven, or twelve. Participation rates will be based on students who have completed the science test requirement by grade twelve. The CAA for Science pilot year 2 will consist of three performance tasks. Each performance task consists of a collection of activities and questions that can be administered after related concepts are introduced and taught to the students. The administration of the embedded performance task following instruction allows students to demonstrate what they know and can do and minimizes the gap between instruction and the assessment.

The following resources for the CAA for Science pilot year 2 are available at the California Department of Education CAA Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>

- **Assessment Fact Sheet**

Provides answers to general questions you might have about various aspects and objectives of the CAA for Science pilot year 2.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caasciyr2factsheet.pdf>

- **Sample Performance Task**

Provides educators an opportunity to view a sample performance task item.

<http://www.caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAA.sample-embedded-PT.2016-17.pdf>

- **Parent Guide to Understanding the California Alternate Assessments**

Provides answers to key questions, such as who takes the CAAs and why, when, and how they are administered, and other questions parents and guardians might have.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caa-pgtu.pdf>

- **Informational Video**

A seven-minute video that includes information about the new embedded performance task.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caapilotvideo.asp>



# The California Alternate Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA), Mathematics, and Pilot Test for Science

The California Alternate Assessments are part of the state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP.

The California Alternate Assessments are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Students are eligible only if an alternate assessment is indicated in their active individualized education program (IEP) by the IEP team.



	ELA and Mathematics	Pilot for Science
<b>Who</b>	All eligible students in grades 3 through 8, and grade 11.	All eligible students in grades 5, 8, and once in high school, depending on when they take their last science class.
<b>What</b>	Measures what students know and can do through alternate achievement standards which are aligned with the Common Core State Standards in ELA and mathematics.	Measures what students know and can do through alternate achievement standards which are aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).
<b>How</b>	<p>The assessments are administered one-on-one by a Test Examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs.</p> <p>Tests are computer-based and change the level of difficulty based on how students respond to test questions.</p>	<p>The assessments are administered one-on-one by a Test Examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs.</p> <p>Three performance tasks are given to students throughout the year following classroom instruction on the topic. A performance task is a collection of activities and questions.</p>
<b>When</b>	Administered from January through the last day of school. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific days and times of testing.	Teachers choose the best time to administer each performance task based on when the concepts are taught. This allows students to show what they know and can do.
<b>Why</b>	The purpose of the CAAs for ELA and mathematics is to measure what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need.	The purpose of the CAA for Science is to measure what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need.

## What resources are available for students?

Students are provided resources that are specific to their active IEP, such as refreshable braille, communication devices, and language of instruction.

### How can I help my child get ready for the test?

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Discuss the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher have high expectations and that you are both there to help them every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child. Practice tests can be found at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.
- Review test results with your child and discuss with their teacher where they might need additional help.



## Additional Information

More information about the California Alternate Assessments can be found on the California Department of Education California Alternate Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>.

More information about your child's scores can be found by contacting your child's teacher and/or the school office. Please note that students will not receive a score report for the California Alternate Assessments for Science pilot test because it is still under development.

