

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

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

The CAAs 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.



## CAAs for ELA and Mathematics

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
All eligible students in grades 3–8, and grade 11.	Measures what students know and can do through alternate achievement standards which are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics.	Each school selects its own testing window. Testing can begin as early as January and continue through the last day of school. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific dates and times of testing.
HOW	WHY	
Administered one-on-one by a Test Examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs. Tests are computer-based and change the level of difficulty based on how students respond to test questions.	Measures what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards.	

## CAA for Science

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
All eligible students in grades 5, 8, and once in high school.	Measures what students know and can do through alternate achievement standards which are aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).	Teachers choose the best time to test students between September and the last day of school, based on when the concepts are taught.
HOW	WHY	
Administered one-on-one by a Test Examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs. Four computer-based performance tasks are given to students throughout the year. A performance task is a collection of activities and questions.	Measures what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards.	

## What resources are available for students?

In addition to those listed in their active IEP, students may use other instructional or physical resources, such as translation of classroom instruction into another language.

### How can I help my child prepare 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 and 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.
- 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.



The CAAs for ELA and mathematics are aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Information about these standards can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc>.

The CAA for Science is aligned to the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), which can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/ngssstandards.asp>. Additional information can be found in the *CA NGSS Core Content Connectors for Alternate Assessments* document at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/ngssaltconnectors.docx>.

Sample questions, as well as links to practice tests and resources, are available on the Starting Smarter web page at <https://ca.startingsmarter.org>.

## Additional Information

More information about the CAAs can be found on the California Department of Education CAAs for ELA and mathematics web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp> and the CAA for Science web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caascience.asp>.

For more information about your child's scores, contact your child's teacher and/or the school office.

