

# 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.

