



# Evergreen School District

*From strong roots grow bright futures*

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February 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each year, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

**This year, your child will take the following test(s), depending on their grade level:**

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades three through eight and grade eleven
- California Science Test (CAST) in grades five and eight and once in high school

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the CAST are online tests that measure what your student knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support needed to be successful in school.

You are an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the test you can:

- Talk about 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 are both there to help, every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments or the CAST, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

You also can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

If you have questions, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Dan Deguara  
Assistant Superintendent

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# Statewide Testing Notification

California students take several mandated statewide tests. These tests provide parents/guardians, teachers, and educators with information about how well students are learning and becoming college and career ready. The test results may be used for local, state, and federal accountability purposes.

## **The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests consist of the following:**

- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments**

The Smarter Balanced computer adaptive assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics tests are administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven to measure whether students are on track to college and career readiness. In grade eleven, results from the ELA and mathematics assessments can be used as an indicator of college readiness.

- **California Science Tests (CAST)**

The computer-based CAST measures students' achievement of the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) through the application of their knowledge and skills of the Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts. The CAST is administered to all students in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve).

- **California Alternate Assessments (CAAs)**

Only eligible students—students whose individualized education program (IEP) identifies the use of alternate assessments—may participate in the administration of the CAAs. Test examiners administer the computer-based CAAs for ELA, mathematics, and science one-on-one to students. Students in grades three through eight and grade eleven will take the CAA for ELA and mathematics. Test items developed for ELA and mathematics are aligned with the CCSS and are based on the Core Content Connectors.

Students in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve) will take the CAA for Science. The CAA for Science embedded performance tasks are based on alternate achievement standards derived from the CA NGSS. Students taking the CAA for Science will take three embedded performance tasks in spring 2020.

- **California Spanish Assessment (CSA) for Reading/Language Arts**

The optional CSA for Reading/Language Arts in Spanish is aligned with the California Common Core State Standards en Español. This computer-based test allows students to demonstrate their Spanish skills in listening, reading, and writing mechanics.

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments.

## **English Language Proficiency Assessments for California**

The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards. It consists of two separate English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English learners and the other for the annual summative assessment to identify students' English language proficiency level and to measure their progress in learning English.

## **Physical Fitness Test**

The physical fitness test for students in California schools is the FitnessGram®. The main goal of the test is to help students in starting lifelong habits of regular physical activity. Students in grades five, seven, and nine take the fitness test.

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