

Reporting and Using the Results

There will be no test results (individual, school, district, county, or state) for the 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test. The purpose of this spring test is to ensure that the assessments are accurate and fair for all students. It also gives teachers and schools a chance to gauge their readiness to administer the new assessments before the launching of the operational test in 2015.

School districts are required to send results for the CST and CMA Science, STS, and CAPA tests to each student's home address within 20 working days after they are received from the testing contractor. Individual student results are confidential and are to be shared only with parents or guardians and their child's teacher(s). Individual CST, CMA, CAPA, and STS results provide information about each student's academic progress. Schools also use group results to identify strengths in their academic programs and areas that need improvement.

Because there will be no operational ELA or mathematics assessment in 2014, there will be insufficient data to calculate an Academic Performance Index (API) for school accountability. Schools can use their most recent API or a three-year average API to meet the API requirement.

Instructions for obtaining individual student results for the EAP for ELA and mathematics are available on the EAP Web site at <http://www.collegeeap.org/>.

Resources for Parents and Guardians

Smarter Balanced Spring 2014 Field Test

Field Test videos for students:

High school: <http://youtu.be/DXXd451e580> (Spanish: <http://youtu.be/i9TMP-ljKKg>)

Middle school: <http://youtu.be/YKerb7NsDUE> (Spanish: <http://youtu.be/s430vMvEVkc>)

Elementary school: http://youtu.be/33EmKF0ox_k (Spanish: <http://youtu.be/ocZFZTbsbk8>)

Redesigned Smarter Balanced Field Test Web page:

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

Smarter Balanced Practice Tests:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/> under "Practice Test, Training Test, and Sample Items"

California Common Core State Standards

CCSS and CCSS Systems Implementation Plan:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/documents/ccssimpsysplanforcaoct2012.doc>

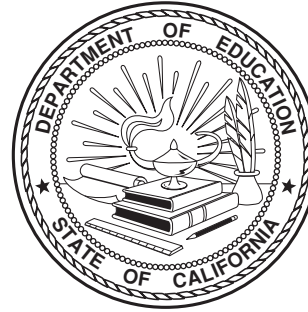
California State PTA Parent Guides:

<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm>

K–8 California's Common Core Standards Parent Handbook.*

<http://ccsesa.org/special-projects/common-core-standards-communication-tools/>

* Many translations are available for the *K–8 California's Common Core Standards Parent Handbook*.



2013–14 CAASPP

Parent Guide to the 2013–14 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

April 2014

Prepared by the
California Department of Education

California's New Statewide Testing System

Signed into law on October 2, 2013, Assembly Bill 484 launched a new student testing system for California's schools, now called the **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)**. The CAASPP system is based on the state's new California Common Core State Standards (CA CCSS) for English–language arts (ELA) and mathematics, adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010. This new system replaces the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program that was based on 1997 standards.

The primary goal of the new statewide testing program is to better prepare all students for college and careers in the twenty-first century. Computer-based assessments, developed through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, form the cornerstone for CAASPP. Schools throughout California are taking part in the Smarter Balanced Field Test this spring. The primary purpose of this field test is to make sure the test questions are fair for all students. It also gives teachers and schools a chance to find out whether they are ready for the operational tests in 2015.

Common Core State Standards

The new CA CCSS for ELA and mathematics replace the 1997 academic standards. The CA CCSS, like the earlier state standards, describe what students should know and be able to do in these two subject areas at each grade level from kindergarten through grade twelve.

Since 2010, 44 states, including California, have adopted the Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics. The CA CCSS are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, will graduate from high school prepared for college and work. Having clearly defined learning objectives helps parents or guardians and teachers work together to make sure their students succeed. The overall goal is that all students have the skills and knowledge needed to compete in today's global economy.

Testing in 2013–14

The following tests are required:

- Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test for ELA and mathematics in grades three through eight and grade eleven (and a select sample in grades nine and ten)
- The California Standards Test (CST), the California Modified Assessment (CMA), and the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) for science in grades five, eight, and ten
- The CAPA for ELA and mathematics in grades two through eleven (Students who are eligible for the CAPA will not participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test.)

The following tests are optional:

- The CSTs for ELA and mathematics used for the Early Assessment Program (EAP) in grade eleven (voluntary for students, as they have been in previous years)
- Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) for reading/language arts in grades two through eleven (voluntary for school districts to administer; state pays for ELA)

Test Formats

The spring 2014 assessments are presented in two different formats:

- Smarter Balanced assessments are computer-based and presented in a variety of item types: multiple-choice, short answer, and constructed-response questions and a performance task in all grades tested. There is no isolated writing task, as was used in the STAR Program. For Smarter Balanced, students will show their writing knowledge and skills in a number of ways in all grade levels tested.
- The CST and CMA for science are paper-and-pencil tests presented in a multiple-choice format. The CAPA includes a variety of test formats that are presented one-on-one by a trained examiner. The EAP for ELA and mathematics in grade eleven are presented in a multiple-choice format, plus a written essay for ELA.

Testing Windows for 2013–14

The Smarter Balanced Field Test will be administered from March 25 through June 6, 2014, during a testing window assigned by the testing contractor. Schools establish their own testing schedules within the window.

The CST, CMA, STS (if given), and EAP will be administered within a testing window of 25 instructional days that includes 12 instructional days before and after the completion of 85 percent of the school's, track's, or program's instructional days.

Student Participation

All students in grades three through eight and grade eleven are to take the Smarter Balanced Field Test and the designated CSTs or CMAs in spring 2014. The exceptions are students who have severe cognitive disabilities and are required to take the CAPA, according to their individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan. English learners who have been enrolled in a school in the United States for less than 12 months (cumulative) also are excused from taking the ELA sections of the spring tests.