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February 1, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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. This letter provides information about tests students will take this school year and what students need to test remotely.

### **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress**

#### **Summative Assessments and California Science Test**

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, eight and eleven. Twelfth graders that have not previously taken the CAST will also be assessed.

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>.

#### **California Alternate Assessments**

Students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs), as designated in their active individualized education program. The CAAs measure what students know and can do. Sample performance tasks for the CAA for Science are available on the CAASPP Practice and Training web page at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

#### **Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)**

Students in kindergarten through grade twelve who are classified as English learners will take the Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English. Students are tested on their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Your child's voice is recorded as part of the Speaking test. A small percentage of student responses will be used to validate the accuracy of scoring and will not be used for identification. All recorded responses will be destroyed after the scores are validated.

To learn more about the ELPAC, 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 ELPAC Starting Smarter website at <https://elpac.startingsmarter.org/>.

You are an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the tests 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.

For the 2021 spring administration of CAASPP, students will be able to take their assigned tests in-person or remotely. **Our priority is to keep our students and educators safe** by following state, county, and local health and safety requirements associated with the current pandemic.

#### **Remote Testing**

Students will take the test from the safety of their homes. The test administrator or examiner will connect with each child by computer. To make sure that each student receives the most accurate score, we are providing the following guidelines for student testing:

1. You may assist your child with setting up the technology used to enter the test session.
2. To keep the test fair for all students, we ask that you do not talk about the questions on the test or any materials for the test with anyone before, during, or after the test.
3. No one may record the test or use a camera or another device to take pictures of the test questions or of your child taking the test. This helps to keep the questions confidential.
4. We need to know that the test is being completed by your child without any help. To verify compliance, a web camera and microphone will be used to observe your child while taking the test. The camera is only used to observe your child and the surroundings during the test and will not record the session.
5. Please follow all instructions given by the test administrator or examiner to place the camera where your child and the child's immediate surroundings can be observed.

If your child cannot use the computer's camera, microphone, and speaker or headphone during remote testing, you may contact your school's site administrator/test coordinator for another way to administer the test to your child—for example, in-person test administration.

Thank you for making sure your child is ready to test. With your help, we can ensure that your child, as well as all students in California, are provided with the best opportunity to succeed and show what they know. If you have questions, please contact your school site's administrator/test coordinator.

Sincerely,



Tracy Freed, Ed.D.

Director of Assessment and Instructional Technology