

California Science Test Field Test



WHAT IS THE CAST FIELD TEST?

The California Science Test (CAST) is part of California's state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Currently under development, the CAST will be field-tested in 2017–18 and administered operationally in 2018–19.

The CAST measures what students know and can do using the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), which focus on understanding the concepts across such scientific areas as life science, earth and space science, and physical science. These standards use disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts to help students understand how science works in the natural world.



WHY IS THE CAST GIVEN?

The purpose of the CAST is to measure what students know and can do (student achievement) and to foster science education at every grade level. In addition, the CAST is intended to help students learn the knowledge and skills they need for college and careers.

The 2017–18 CAST field test will try out newly developed items and test system functionality.



WHO TAKES THE CAST?

The 2017–18 CAST field test will be administered to all students in grades five and eight.

For grades ten, eleven, and twelve, certain students will be expected to participate on the basis of the last science course they completed.



HOW IS THE CAST GIVEN?

The CAST field test is a computer-based test that consists of stand-alone items and includes two or three performance tasks. These performance tasks require students to solve a series of complex problems. Testing should take approximately two hours to complete.



WHEN IS THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE TEST GIVEN?

2017–18

2018–19

FIELD TEST*
April–July 2018

OPERATIONAL
January–July 2019

* Until development of the test has been completed and reviewed, no student scores or aggregated results will be released.

