



SAN GABRIEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Our Children's Future is our Mission"

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Office of Assessment and Professional Development

CAASPP System Assessments 2017-2018 Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and California Science Test Grade Three Through Eight and Grades 11/12

March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

California's academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate ready for college and a career. One way we measure their progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. Students across California in grades 3–8 and high school take these assessments each spring. These tests were created specifically to gauge each student's performance in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. These tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems. Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards. Given online, the tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more precise measurement of individual skills.

This year, your child will take the following tests:
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and Mathematics (Grades 3-8, and 11)
The California Science Test (Grades 5, 8, and 12)

Smarter Balanced Assessments

The Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics tests reflect California's rigorous academic standards and allow students to demonstrate analytical writing and critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of facts. In 2018, parents will be able to compare results across **three years** (2015–16, 2016–17, & 2017-18) to determine their child's progress in meeting the standards. (Exceptions: Only two years of data will be reported for students in grade 4, and only one year of data will be reported for students in grades three.)

To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Another great resource are the Practice and Training Tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

California Science Test (Grade 5, 8, and 12)

California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. For additional information about the new science tests and sample questions, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

It is important to note that pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents do have the right to exempt their student from statewide assessments.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Ms. Shannon James, Director of Assessment and Professional Development at 626-451-5486.