



San Lorenzo Unified School District

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Dear San Lorenzo Unified Families,

Each spring, students in California participate in the statewide testing program, called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The online tests are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for ELA and Mathematics, and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Science. CAASPP provides information to teachers, parents/guardians and students about students' progress and readiness for college and career. In grades three through eight and grade eleven, students take online tests for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, while students in grades five, eight and one grade in high school, take the California Science Test (CAST). Students' who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) may be eligible to take the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) in lieu of the CAASPP.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has developed several resources to help students and parents/guardians understand the grade expectations of the CAASPP Assessments.

- The *Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Assessments* (in English and Spanish) are posted on the CDE's CAASPP Web page, under the Students and Parents Tab. Separate guides have been developed for each of the three grade spans tested: grades 3–5, grades 6–8, and grade 11. Each guide explains the grade-level expectations for students in ELA and Mathematics and provides sample test items. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>.
- Practice and training tests can help parents/guardians and students experience the type of test items that students will encounter on the CAASPP and can be found at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>. Answers to the practice tests and scoring rubrics for the performance tests can be found at <http://www.caaspp.org/ta-resources/practice-training.html>.

A parent/guardian may provide a written request to school officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the assessments administered. All test results and Student Score Reports are available via the Aeries Portal. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, or if you have challenges accessing the Aeries Portal, or if you would prefer a paper copy of the Student Score Report, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Respectfully,

Fred Brill, Ed.D.
Superintendent