



## William S. Hart Union High School District

California Department of Education

February 2016

### **CAASPP System Assessments 2015–16 California Alternate Assessments and CAPA for Science Parent and Guardian Notification Letter Template**

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each spring, most students in California participate in the statewide testing program, which is the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System. In grades three through eight and grade eleven, students are tested in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. In grades five, eight, and ten, they are also tested in science. Those students who have a significant cognitive disability, as designated in their individualized education program (IEP), are eligible to take alternative assessments, as detailed below.

#### **California Alternate Assessments**

Students in grades three through eight and grade eleven who have an IEP that designates the use of an alternate assessment are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) in lieu of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics. The goal of the CAAs is to ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities attain increasingly higher achievement levels and leave high school ready for academic or career options. The test items are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics and are based on the Core Content Connectors, which were developed with three tiers of complexity.

If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact your school site's Test Coordinator.

#### **California Alternate Performance Assessment for Science**

California has adopted new science standards and is currently developing assessments that are aligned with these standards. During the transition to new science assessments, students in grades five, eight, and twelve who have a significant cognitive disability are eligible to take the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA).

For information on the new science assessments and who is eligible for each of these science tests, please see the CDE's California Science Assessments FAQ Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/sciencefaq.asp#accordionfaq>.

For information about the content, types of questions, and other targeted resources for the science tests, please see the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.