

California Alternate Assessment for Science Pilot Year 2



WHAT IS THE ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT FOR SCIENCE?

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is part of California's state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Currently under development, the CAA for Science will undergo a second year of pilot testing in 2017–18, field testing in 2018–19, and operational administration in 2019–20.

Designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the CAA for Science is an annual measure of what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards. Known as the Core Content Connectors, these standards are aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).



WHY IS THE CAA FOR SCIENCE GIVEN?

The purpose of the CAA for Science is to measure what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need.

The purpose of the year 2 pilot test is to allow educators to try out performance task items and become familiar with the practice of embedding performance tasks into classroom instruction.



WHO TAKES THE CAA FOR SCIENCE?

Students are eligible to take the CAA for Science only if it is indicated in their active individualized education program (IEP) by the IEP team.

The year 2 pilot test will be administered to eligible 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 CAA FOR SCIENCE GIVEN?

The CAAs are administered one-on-one by a trained test examiner who is familiar with the student and his or her needs.

The year 2 pilot test consists of three embedded performance tasks, a collection of activities and questions administered after related concepts are taught to the students. Performance tasks allow teachers to determine the best time to administer tasks, and allow students to demonstrate what they know and can do in a less burdensome environment.

Test Examiners will enter a student's scores for each performance task into the Data Entry Interface System.



WHEN IS THE CAA FOR SCIENCE GIVEN?

2017–18

2018–19

2019–20

YEAR 2 PILOT TEST*

November 2017–July 2018

FIELD TEST*

September 2018–July 2019

OPERATIONAL

September 2019–July 2020

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

For additional information, call your local educational agency CAASPP coordinator or visit the California Department of Education California Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>.



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