



Santa Cruz City Schools  
133 Mission Street, Ste. 100  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATEWIDE TESTING NOTIFICATION

California students take several mandated statewide tests. These tests provide parents/guardians, teachers, and educators with information about how well students are learning and becoming college and career ready. The test results may be used for local, state, and federal accountability purposes.

### **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress:**

#### ***Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments***

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) computer adaptive assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics tests are administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven to measure whether students are on track to college and career readiness. In grade eleven, results from the ELA and Math assessments can be used in place of California State University placement tests. The 11th grade ELA CAASPP is also a mandatory component of the Seal of Biliteracy eligibility requirements.

#### ***California Science Tests (CAST)***

This will be the second year that the CAST is administered. The CAST measures student acquisition of the California Next Generation Science Standards. It is administered in grades five, eight, and eleven.

#### ***California Alternate Assessments (CAA)***

The computer-based CAA for ELA and CAA for Mathematics is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through eight and grade eleven. Test items are aligned with the CCSS and are based on the Core Content Connectors. The instructionally embedded CAA for Science is administered in grades five, eight, and eleven.

Pursuant to California Education Code Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments. Please again note, that if your child is in the eleventh grade the CAASPP assessments will take the place of the Cal State placement assessments, and are mandatory for students desiring to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

### **English Language Proficiency Assessments for California**

The ELPAC is a test given to students whose primary language is something other than English and are still in the process of learning English. This assessment is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards. It consists of two separate English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English Learners and the other for the annual summative assessment to identify students' English language proficiency level and to measure their progress in learning English.

### **Physical Fitness Test**

The Physical Fitness Test (PFT) for students in California schools is the FitnessGram®. The main goal of the test is to help students in starting lifelong habits of regular physical activity. Students in grades five, seven, and nine take the fitness test.