

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education July 2021 Agenda Item #03

## Subject

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, and the California High School Proficiency Examination: Update on Program Activities.

## Type of Action

Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

This item provides a summary of developments and updates related to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), including the California Science Test (CAST) and the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science; the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), focusing on the Initial ELPAC; and the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE). Attachment 1 provides the CAASPP and ELPAC outreach and professional development activities from May through June 2021.

## Recommendation

The California Department of Education (CDE) does not recommend any action, as this item is being presented for information only.

## Brief History of Key Issues

The following sections provide a summary of developments and updates related to the CAASPP, with an emphasis on the CAST and CAA for Science; the ELPAC, with a focus on the initial administration; and the CHSPE.

### California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California Program Updates

The following updates include the CAST, CAA for Science, and Initial ELPAC.

#### California Science Test Updates

The CAST, aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), is administered to all eligible students in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve).

The CDE and testing contractor ETS continue to use best practices for, and apply professional standards to, the development of the CAST by including California science educators throughout the assessment development process. From July 12 through July 14, 2021, ETS will conduct a virtual CAST Item Writer Workshop with California science educators. During this workshop, ETS will train the educators to write a variety of new items, using the three science domains (i.e., Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences), which may be used in future versions of the CAST. The participants will also use the CAST item content specifications as a tool to ensure that the new items align with the CA NGSS and are multidimensional. These item specifications identify the assessment targets and relevant Environmental Principles and Concepts that guide the development of assessment items for each of the Performance Expectations of the CA NGSS. They also provide examples of potential student tasks, possible scientific phenomena, common misconceptions, and additional resources. These documents are available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/castitemspecs.asp>.

On April 14, 2021, the CDE and ETS convened for a Science Summit Meeting with national science experts James Pellegrino, Kathleen Scalise, Helen Quinn, Jonathan Osborne, and Brian Gong. The summit focused on CAST updates and any impacts to the CAST over the past year due to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. During the meeting, the national experts also provided updates to California on projects they are involved in that could potentially be of assistance to the science team.

#### California Alternate Assessment for Science Updates

The CAA for Science is an online assessment administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP) indicates the use of an alternate assessment. Test examiners administer the assessment to students one-on-one. Eligible students take the CAA for Science in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve). This assessment consists of four embedded performance tasks administered to students as close to instruction as possible throughout the school year. The 2021–2022 CAA for Science will begin on September 7, 2021.

##### Reporting 2020–2021 Results

For the 2020–2021 CAA for Science results, California will again report preliminary indicators (i.e., a percent correct and an indicator category). These preliminary indicators are the same as those used for reporting the results of the 2017–2018 field test through the 2019–2020 administration. Eligible students in grades five and eight and high school who submitted all four embedded performance tasks will receive preliminary indicators. High school students who meet the participation rule for the CAA for Science in 2020–2021 will have satisfied the science testing requirement for high school.

Local educational agencies (LEAs) will receive a downloadable student score extract file, in the Test Operations Management System, containing preliminary indicators for the students who submitted all four of the CAA for Science performance tasks. For the students who started testing but did not submit all four of the CAA for Science performance tasks, the student score extract file will contain the number of items attempted. LEAs have been encouraged to communicate the individual student preliminary indicator results to parents and guardians in a manner best suited to their local context.

The CDE is updating the Preliminary Indicator Toolkit web page, which provides tools to assist LEAs in reporting preliminary indicator results to educators, parents and guardians, and other stakeholders. The web page includes key messages, a reporting timeline, transition to operational status, frequently asked questions, parent and guardian letter templates, and other tools related to providing information about the 2020–2021 preliminary indicator results. The web page also includes resources to assist LEAs in understanding the limitations of preliminary indicators. This web page can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/prelimindicatortoolkit.asp>.

The CDE will provide aggregated preliminary indicator data in the form of research files in the late fall of 2021 on the CAA for Science Administration Research Files web page, which is located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caaresearchfiles.asp>. The 2020–2021 CAA for Science data will not be reported in the California Educator Reporting System or on the public reporting website, and no official CAA for Science Student Score Reports will be generated. Preliminary indicators are not precise enough to stand on their own, and these results should not be used to compare students, schools, and LEAs.

##### Standard Setting

The CAA for Science virtual standard setting meeting will take place with California special education and science educators August 3–5, 2021. ETS will implement a modified Angoff and extended Angoff method during standard setting. The Angoff method is the same method that was used for the CAST; it is a widely used approach for standard setting that relies on educator judgments and can be conducted using small volumes (i.e., less than 500 responses per item) of test data.

As part of the standard setting process participants make recommendations for the threshold scores to be presented to the SBE for approval. The CDE had planned to seek approval for the recommended threshold scores from the SBE in November 2021. However, the testing volumes for the 2020–2021 administration are not of sufficient amounts and may not be reflective of a “normal” instructional year to establish threshold scores. The CDE will, therefore, postpone seeking the SBE’s approval of the recommended threshold scores by one year to allow time to collect data from the   
2021–2022 administration that is expected to be more robust to reliably establish threshold scores. This postponement also will provide the CDE an opportunity to evaluate the educator panel’s recommended threshold scores informed by the August 2021 CAST standard setting workshop and allow for additional time to consult with select CAASPP Technical Advisory Group members and the Statewide Assessment Stakeholder members who represent California educational associations. The CDE will seek the SBE’s approval of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction’s recommended threshold scores in September 2022.

The CDE will continue to provide the SBE with updates on the status of the CAA for Science standard setting and other important development meetings as more information becomes available.

### Initial ELPAC Update

As stated in the May 2021 SBE item, the CDE made the decision to continue to provide the option of administering the Initial ELPAC remotely for the 2021–2022 test administration window, which opened on July 6, 2021. The paper-pencil Initial ELPAC is no longer available starting in the 2021-22 school year, as the Initial ELPAC is a computer-based assessment except for Writing in kindergarten through grade two. For students who require a paper-pencil Initial ELPAC form, that need must be indicated on their IEP or Section 504 plan or as a result of an emergency at the LEA or school level.

The purpose of the Initial ELPAC is to determine the English language proficiency of newly enrolled students whose primary language is a language other than English, as indicated on the results of their Home Language Survey, and identify which students are Initial English Proficient or English learners (ELs). Students classified as ELs are then provided with the required English language development support to advance their English language proficiency. After classification through Initial ELPAC testing, ELs are required to take the Summative ELPAC each spring until they meet the district’s reclassification criteria and no longer need support services.

Since spring 2021, LEA staff have been completing the Initial ELPAC administration and scoring virtual training. Training videos and associated resources were published on April 12, 2021, and continue to be available on the ELPAC Moodle Training Site. In addition, the Sacramento County Office of Education hosted a virtual office hour session in May and is planning to host another in August 2021 to provide LEAs with further test administration support. The CDE’s county office of education partners also hosted regional workshops throughout California to provide support to LEAs.

### California High School Proficiency Examination Update

The CHSPE was not administered in October 2020 and March 2021 due to state and local health and safety protocols related to COVID-19. Improving conditions since that time, such as increased vaccinations and the return of many LEAs to in-person instruction, allowed for the administration of the CHSPE in April and May 2021, giving the nearly 1,800 students an opportunity to test before the summer break. Testing took place at the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Sacramento County Office of Education during four nonconsecutive weeks. State and local health and safety guidelines were followed during these administrations. Scores were mailed on June 30 to all test takers. The next administration dates and locations will be announced July 2021.

Testing in 2021–2022 will be held at regional locations across the state on approved dates and within multiple windows. Regional sites can schedule the specific administration dates and times within a testing window. More information will be posted on the CHSPE website at <https://www.chspe.org/> when it becomes available.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In May 2021, the CDE sought approval of the proposed 2020–2021 apportionment rates for the CAASPP and the ELPAC and provided an update of program activities. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr21/documents/may21item03.docx>).

In November 2018, the SBE approved the contract amendment with ETS’s CAASPP contract to include the integration of the ELPAC (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/documents/nov18item08.docx>).

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The 2021–2022 Budget Act provides a total of $86,977,000 for CAASPP contract activities and $23,720,000 in funding for ELPAC contract activities. Funding for   
2022–2023 and beyond will be contingent on an annual appropriation being made available from the Legislature in future fiscal years.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: Outreach and Professional Development Activities (11 Pages)

## Outreach and Professional Development Activities

The California Department of Education (CDE), in coordination with California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) contractors ETS and the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), has provided a variety of virtual outreach activities, including workshops, focus group meetings, and presentations to prepare local educational agencies (LEAs) for the administration of the CAASPP System and the ELPAC. In addition, the CDE continues to release information regarding assessment program updates, including weekly updates, on its website and through listserv email. The following tables provide descriptions of these virtual outreach and professional development activities during May and June 2021.

**Table 1. Trainings**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/11 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (English language arts/literacy [ELA]), Part 1: Training-of-Trainers (county office of education [COE] staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work (e.g., essays) according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment ELA performance tasks. |
| 5/14 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (ELA), Part 2: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work (e.g., essays) according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment ELA performance tasks. |
| 5/14 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (Math), Part 1: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment mathematics performance tasks. |
| 5/15 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (Math), Part 2: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment mathematics performance tasks. |
| 5/18 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (ELA), Part 1: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work (e.g., essays) according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment ELA performance tasks. |
| 5/20 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (ELA), Part 2: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work (e.g., essays) according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment ELA performance tasks. |
| 6/2 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (Math), Part 1: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment mathematics performance tasks. |
| 6/8 | Virtual | 80 | Supporting Student Learning Through Hand Scoring Calibration (Math), Part 2: Training-of-Trainers (COE staff)  This workshop provided attendees (COE staff) with the training and materials to go to LEAs/schools in their respective counties and train local staff to score student work according to the rubrics created for scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment mathematics performance tasks. |
| 6/5–25 | Virtual | 385 | New ELPAC Coordinator Training  This full-day training was provided by COE partners at 11 locations across the state. It was for ELPAC coordinators new to their role and for coordinators who wanted a refresher. The training included an explanation of responsibilities and time frames along with procedures and practices to support administration. |
| 6/16 | Virtual | 500 | CAASPP and ELPAC Post-Test Webinar  ETS, on behalf of the CDE, presented a webinar that included information about how assessments are scored, where the reports are located in the Test Operations Management System, and how to access reports. |

**Table 2. Advisory Panel/Review Committee Meetings**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/3–5 | Virtual | 26 | California Science Test (CAST) Item Review Meeting  Participants reviewed potential CAST items for content and for bias and sensitivity issues. |
| 5/4–6 | Virtual | 50 | Smarter Balanced Collaboration Conference and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting  California joined other Smarter Balanced Consortium members and Smarter Balanced staff to collaborate and discuss Smarter Balanced assessment activities. TAC members provided guidance on technical assessment matters pertaining to validity, reliability, accuracy, and fairness on Smarter Balanced assessments. |
| 5/10‒12 | Virtual | 4 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding Meeting: Support an Opinion  California educators participated in a virtual meeting to identify Speaking anchor responses for the Support an Opinion task type for the newly developed field test items which will be included in the 2021‒22 *ELPAC* *Directions for Administration* documents. |
| 5/17–6/9 | Virtual | 44 | Formative Assessment Science Resources for Teachers Workshop  California science educators developed formative assessment instructional science resources for kindergarten through grade five for inclusion in the Tools for Teachers website. |
| 5/18–20 | Virtual | 22 | California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and Mathematics Item Review Meeting  Participants reviewed potential CAAs for ELA and mathematics items for content and for bias and sensitivity issues. |
| 5/19–20 | Virtual | 22 | ELPAC Summative Data Review Meeting  Participants reviewed data on the performance of kindergarten through grade 12 test items that were field tested in 2020‒21. |
| 5/19–21 | Virtual | 3 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding Meeting: Talk About a Scene  Participants identified anchor samples for the Speaking domain to assist with training and scoring Speaking items for the Talk About a Scene task type. |
| 5/20–21 | Virtual | 3 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding Meeting: Speech Functions  Participants identified anchor samples for the Speaking domain to assist with training and scoring Speaking items for the Speech Functions task type. |
| 5/24–27 | Virtual | 21 | Summative ELPAC Embedded Field Test Writing Range Finding  Participants scored Writing student samples and identified anchor and training responses to be used in the scoring of the written constructed-response items. |
| 6/1–3 | Virtual | 20 | Alternate ELPAC Item Writer Workshop  Participants received training on how to write items, and then wrote items to be used in future versions of the Alternate ELPAC. |
| 6/1–3 | Virtual | 4 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding Meeting: Summarize an Academic Presentation  Participants identified anchor samples for the Speaking domain to assist with training and scoring Speaking items for the Summarize an Academic Presentation task type. |
| 6/2 | Virtual | 7 | ELPAC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting  The ELPAC TAG met to review psychometric topics related to ELPAC, including school instruction mode and test location analyses, an evaluation of remote testing for the spring 2021 Summative ELPAC, and the Summative ELPAC independent alignment study. |
| 6/3 | Virtual | 35 | CAASPP TAG Meeting  The CAASPP TAG met to review psychometric topics related to CAASPP, including the California Growth Model and planned analyses for the spring 2021 CAASPP administration. |
| 6/7–8 | Virtual | 4 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding Meeting: Present and Discuss Information  Participants identified anchor samples for the Speaking domain to assist with training and scoring Speaking items for the Present and Discuss task type. |
| 6/15–17 | Virtual | 14 | ELPAC Item Writer Workshop  Participants received training on how to write items, and then wrote items to be used in future versions of the ELPAC. |
| 6/15–17 | Virtual | 4 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding Meeting: Retell a Narrative  Participants identified anchor samples for the Speaking domain to assist with training and scoring Speaking items for the Retell a Narrative task type. |
| 6/17–18 | Virtual | 14 | California Spanish Assessment (CSA) Data Review Meeting  Participants reviewed data on the performance of grade three through eight test items that were field tested in 2020‒21. |
| 6/29–30 | Virtual | 26 | CAST Data Review Meeting  Participants reviewed data on the performance of live items. |

**Table 3. Presentations by CDE Staff**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/6 | Virtual | 125 | Office Hours: ELPAC  Virtual office hours, hosted by the CDE and ETS, offered opportunities for LEA staff to ask questions and get answers about the spring assessments and multiple administration options.  The CDE and ETS presented about ELPAC, assessment updates, topics of interest, and allowed time for questions and answers for LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators, and anyone interested in learning more about the CAASPP and ELPAC administrations this spring. |
| 5/7  5/14  5/21  6/4  6/25 | Virtual  Virtual  Virtual  Virtual  Virtual | 103  102  93  70  120 | Coffee Sessions  Virtual coffee sessions, hosted by the CDE and ETS, offer opportunities for LEA staff to ask questions and get answers about the spring assessments and multiple administration options.  Coffee Sessions are dedicated to answering questions about the assessments from testing coordinators at schools, districts, and county offices of education. |
| 5/13 | Virtual | 123 | Office Hours – Shared Experiences  The CDE and ETS presented shared experiences, assessment updates, topics of interest, and allowed time for questions and answers for LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators, and anyone interested in learning more about the CAASPP and ELPAC administrations this spring. |
| 5/19 | Virtual | 25 | Regional Assessment Network Meeting  The Assessment Development and Administration Division (ADAD) provided updates on activities and test development. |
| 5/20 | Virtual | 135 | Office Hours: CALPADS  Virtual office hours, hosted by the CDE and ETS, offered opportunities for LEA staff to ask questions and get answers about the spring assessments and multiple administration options.  The CDE and ETS will presented about CALPADS, assessment updates, topics of interest, and allowed time for questions and answers for LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators, and anyone interested in learning more about the CAASPP and ELPAC administrations this spring. |
| 5/20 | Virtual | 15 | Statewide Assessment Stakeholders Meeting  The ADAD provided updates on activities and test development. |
| 5/21 | Virtual | 50 | 4th Annual Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Leadership Conference  The theme of this year’s virtual NGSS Leadership Conference was: “Stories on Equity, Social and Emotional Learning, Formative Assessments, and Language during the Pandemic." Participants were provided with information related to the CAST. |
| 5/26 | Virtual | 75 | Bilingual Coordinators Network Meeting  Participants were provided with the most up-to-date information on the ELPAC, Alternate ELPAC, and CSA. |
| 5/27 | Virtual | 116 | Office Hours: California Educator Reporting System (CERS)  The CDE and ETS presented about CERS, assessment updates, topics of interest, and allowed time for questions and answers for LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators, and anyone interested in learning more about the CAASPP and ELPAC administrations this spring. |
| 6/17 | Virtual | 15 | Statewide Assessment Stakeholders Meeting  The ADAD provided updates on activities and test development. |
| 6/18 | Virtual | 70 | State and Federal Program Directors Meeting  Participants were provided with the most up-to-date relevant information on the ELPAC and CAASPP, including timeline for releasing student score reports. |
| 6/24 | Virtual | 114 | Virtual office hours: Reclassification  Virtual office hours, hosted by the CDE and ETS, offered opportunities for LEA staff to ask questions and get answers about the spring assessments and multiple administration options.  The CDE and ETS presented about reclassification, assessment updates, topics of interest, and allowed time for questions and answers for LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators, and anyone interested in learning more about the CAASPP and ELPAC administrations this spring. |