
CAASPP Contract Amendment 4—Narrative for the Budget Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide supporting information to the budget summary that Educational Testing Service (ETS) submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) as part of the contract amendment negotiations for Contract CN150012. The budget summary was presented to the CDE on April 6, 2017, along with the contract amendment scope of work (SOW).

This narrative describes the changes listed in the column labeled “Amendment 4” and is organized in the same order as Exhibit B in the budget summary. For additional information about the other elements of the budget summary, refer to the budget narrative submitted to the CDE on April 21, 2015.

General Comments about the Contract Amendment Budget Summary

- ETS revised the original assessment titles to be consistent with the current assessment titles.
 - “CCSS-aligned Alternate Assessments” is now called the California Alternate Assessments for English-language arts and Mathematics (CAA for ELA and Mathematics).
 - “NGSS-aligned science assessments” is now called the California Science Tests (CAST).
 - “NGSS-aligned alternate science assessments” is now called the California Alternate Assessments for Science (CAA for Science).
 - “CCSS-aligned primary language assessments” is now called the California Spanish Assessments (CSA).
- Contract amendment 4 includes no-cost scope changes in fiscal year (FY) 2016–17.
- Contract amendment 4 includes additional funding in FY2017–18, pending approval by the Governor. The activities that require additional funding include activities in both the 2016–17 test administration year and 2017–18 test administration year.
- There are no budget changes to FY2015–16 and FY2018–19. There are no budget changes to the 2015–16 test administration.

General Comments about Fixed Costs

- Fixed costs include costs for the activities that must occur in order to successfully administer the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system regardless of variables such as, but not limited to: number of tests; number of students tested; or number of local educational agencies (LEAs), schools, or test administrators. To administer at least one test, the activities described as fixed costs must occur.

- Fixed costs include activities that are not tied to a specific testing program and that must occur to operate the CAASPP system. These tasks include the comprehensive plan and schedule (Task 1); program support services, including the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and Digital Library (Task 2); technology services (Task 3); test security measures (Task 4); accessibility and accommodations support (Task 5), and test development (Task 6).
- Fixed costs also include activities that are related directly to the specific testing program. These activities must occur in order to administer at least one test for each grade and content area required. These fixed costs may include test materials construction and production (whether online or paper), scoring, analysis, and psychometric/technical activities and are combined with variable costs. Additional information about these fixed costs is described in the sections below for each testing program. Tasks that have a mix of both fixed and variable costs include test administration (Task 7), scoring and reporting (Task 8), and reporting (Task 9).
- The testing programs within the CAASPP assessment system also share some specific activities that create efficiencies in the administration and operations of the overall assessment system. These include, but are not limited to: preparing the test delivery system for computer-based tests; packaging paper-pencil testing materials for the different testing programs and shipping these materials to LEAs; collecting the paper test materials from LEAs; processing and preparing the test materials (both online or paper tests) when returned to the scoring center; and reporting the test results to the LEAs. For the CAASPP assessment system, the fixed costs for these shared activities are allocated to each testing program according to the expected number of students taking the tests. Thus, the fixed costs for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments — both shared and test specific — are higher than those of the other testing programs, because they include the largest volume of test takers.

General Comments about Variable Costs

- Variable costs include activities that are impacted directly by factors that can change, such as number and types of test materials or number of test takers.
- For the CAASPP assessment system, the most significant drivers of variable costs are the number of test takers which varies by and for each testing program and the number of student responses that human readers must score.
- Variable costs generally include activities that are tied to a specific testing program. The tasks that include variable costs are test administration (Task 7); scoring and analysis (Task 8), and reporting (Task 9). These tasks also have associated fixed costs.

Administrative and Program Support Costs

- 2016–17 Test Administration
 - There are no budget changes to the 2016–17 test administration in this contract amendment.

- 2017–18 Test Administration
 - ETS reallocated \$345,383 in the existing budget in Task 2 to the WestEd subcontract, resulting in a no-cost change.
 - The Program Support Services (Task 2) budget increased by \$475,168 to include a new SOW Task 2.9 to produce the CAASPP Science Academy.

Assessment Development Costs

- The scope of assessment development costs includes CAA for ELA and mathematics, CAST, CAA for Science, and CSA.
- 2016–17 Test Administration
 - In May 2016, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the census pilot and field testing of CAST and CAA for Science beginning with the 2016–17 Test Administration. The SBE also approved the elimination of the 2016–17 CST, CMA, and CAPA Science tests.
 - The CAST budget for Task 6 increased by \$4,220,404 in FY2016–17 funds. The reduction in the CST and CMA Science Assessments budget offset the increase, resulting in a no-cost change.
 - The CAA for Science budget for Task 6 increased by \$447,123 in FY2016–17 funds. The reduction in the CAPA Science Assessments budget offset the increase, resulting in a no-cost change.
- 2017–18 Test Administration
 - In July 2016, the SBE-approved high-level test design for CSA required an adjustment to the test development activities. The new CSA activities— cognitive labs for CSA and the development of general and content-specific achievement level descriptors —increased Task 6 by \$125,581. The elimination of the standard setting activity offset the increase, resulting in a no-cost change.

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Costs — Computer-Based Tests

- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the computer-based (online) administration of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in ELA and mathematics. All students in grades three through eight (inclusive) and 11 are required to take the Smarter Balanced tests. Students eligible to take the CAA are exempt from the Smarter Balanced tests.
- Task 8: Scoring and Analysis
 - The Task 8 budget for the 2016–17 Test Administration increased by a total of \$318,503 in FY2017–18 funds to include the following new activities:
 - Smarter Balanced embedded performance task (PT) field test (FT) in the amount of \$318,503

- The Task 8 budget for the 2017–18 Test Administration increased by a total of \$202,122 in FY2017–18 funds to include the following new activities:
 - Smarter Balanced embedded performance task (PT) field test (FT) in the amount of \$169,532
 - Reporting the Writing Extended Response (WER) dimension scores in the amount of \$32,590
- Task 9: Reporting
 - The Task 9 budget for the 2016–17 Test Administration increased by a total of \$107,663 in FY2017–18 funds to include the following new activities:
 - Smarter Balanced embedded performance task (PT) field test (FT) in the amount of \$28,285
 - Reporting the Writing Extended Response (WER) dimension scores in the amount of \$79,378
 - The Task 9 budget for the 2017–18 Test Administration increased by a total of \$85,944 in FY2017–18 funds to include the following new activities:
 - Smarter Balanced embedded performance task (PT) field test (FT) in the amount of \$28,285
 - Reporting the Writing Extended Response (WER) dimension scores in the amount of \$30,756
 - Special Studies in the amount of \$26,903

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Costs

- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the delivery of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in ELA and mathematics and access to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library.
- There are no changes to the budget for this amendment.

CAA for ELA and Mathematics — Computer-Based Tests

- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the computer-based (online) administration of the CAA in ELA and mathematics. The CAA for ELA and mathematics will be administered to students in grades three through eight (inclusive) and grade 11 whose individualized education program (IEP) teams have determined that the student's cognitive disabilities prevent him or her from taking the online Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. This population of students has, in previous years, been assigned to take the CAPA for ELA and mathematics.
- There are no changes to the budget to Tasks 7, 8, and 9 for this amendment.

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments — Paper-Pencil Tests

- Information about the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments is included in the “Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments — Computer-Based Tests” section of this budget narrative.
- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the paper-pencil administration of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in ELA and mathematics. The paper-pencil tests are available only for the 2016 and 2017 administrations and will be discontinued beginning with the 2018 administration. LEAs must receive approval from the CDE to receive and administer the paper-pencil versions.
- There are no changes to the budget for this amendment.

CAA for ELA and Mathematics — Paper-Pencil Tests

- Information about the CAA for ELA and mathematics is included in the “California Alternate Assessments — Computer-Based Tests” section of this budget narrative.
- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the paper-pencil administration of the CAA for ELA and mathematics in ELA and mathematics.
- There are no changes to the budget for this amendment.

CST and CMA for Science Costs

- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the administration of the CST and CMA for Science in grades five, eight, and 10. Administration, scoring, and reporting of the CST and CMA science assessments are required by state law to meet federal accountability requirements.
- 2016–17 Test Administration
 - In May 2016, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the census pilot and field testing of CAST and CAA for Science beginning with the 2016–17 Test Administration. The SBE also approved the elimination of the 2016–17 CST, CMA, and CAPA Science tests.
 - The CST and CMA Science Assessments budget of \$4,220,404 in FY2016–17 funds was reallocated to the CAST Task 6 budget, resulting in a no-cost change.
- 2017–18 Test Administration
 - There are no budget changes.

CAPA for Science Costs

- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the administration of the CAPA for Science in grades five, eight, and 10. Administration, scoring, and reporting of the CAPA Science assessments that state law is currently required to meet federal accountability requirements. The CAPA Science tests are administered to students with severe cognitive disabilities who cannot access the CST or CMA Science tests.
- 2016–17 Test Administration
 - In May 2016, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the census pilot and field testing of CAST and CAA for Science beginning with the 2016–17 Test Administration. The SBE also approved the elimination of the 2016–17 CST, CMA, and CAPA Science tests.
 - The CAPA Science Assessments budget of \$447,123 in FY2016–17 funds was reallocated to the CAA for Science budget Task 6 budget, resulting in a no-cost change.
- 2017–18 Test Administration
 - There are no budget changes.

STS for Reading/Language Arts Costs

- The tasks and associated costs included in this area are those that are specifically related to the administration of the STS for Reading/Language Arts (RLA) in grades two through 11 inclusive. The STS for RLA tests are administered to Spanish-speaking English learners who meet the eligibility requirements provided by the CDE. It is an optional test and is not used to meet state or federal accountability requirements.
- 2016–17 Test Administration
 - There are no budget changes.
- 2017–18 Test Administration
 - In July 2016, the SBE-approved high-level test design for CSA required an adjustment to the test development schedule that resulted in the delay to implementation of CSA beyond the 2017–18 test administration. In the original contract, the CDE planned to administer the STS RLA through the 2016–17 test administration; however, the California Education Code requires the administration of the STS RLA until the CSA becomes operational. To meet the Education Code, the CDE added the 2017–18 administration of STS RLA as an online test.
 - The 2017–18 STS RLA administration added \$325,298 in FY2017–18 funds:
 - The Task 7–Test Administration activities added \$209,127.
 - The Task 9–Reporting activities added \$116,171.