

A Parent Guide To Understanding California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for English Language Arts, Math, and Science

Your child's teacher uses report card grades, classroom work, teacher observations, and end-of-year statewide test results to get a complete picture of your child's learning.

Who Takes These Tests?

All students in grades 3–8 and 11 whose individualized education program (IEP) designates an alternate assessment will take the CAAs in English language arts and math. Your child will also take the alternate assessment for science in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, either in grade 10, 11, or 12.



Why Do Students Take These Tests?

The results will use alternate achievement standards to identify where your child is doing well or needs more help, so you can better support their learning at home and teachers can better support their learning in the classroom.

When Do Students Take These Tests?

The English language arts and math tests happen in the spring. The science test happens throughout the year, where three performance tasks are given to the student when the science concept is taught. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific dates and times of testing.

How Do Students Take These Tests?

These tests are taken on a computer, one-on-one with a test examiner who is familiar with your child and their needs.

What Resources Are Available?

Your child will have access to resources they need when taking these tests. In addition to those listed in their active IEP, students may use other instructional or physical resources, such as translation of classroom instruction into another language. You can talk to your child's teacher about other available resources that may help your child.

How Can I Help My Child?

- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and that you are there to help them every step of the way.
- Visit the [Starting Smarter website](#) to better understand Student Score Reports, review sample questions, and access resources to support your child's learning.
- Take a practice test with your child from the [CAASPP and ELPAC Practice and Training Tests web page](#).

For more information about your child's scores, contact your child's teacher and/or the school office.

