

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education January 2018 Agenda Item #07

## Subject

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress: Approval of the Proposed Contract Renewal with Educational Testing Service for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

Pursuant to California *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 60643(b), the California Department of Education (CDE) shall develop and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) and the State Board of Education (SBE) shall approve California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) contracts. In approving an amendment to a CAASPP contract, the CDE, in consultation with the SBE, may make material amendments to the contract that do not increase the contract cost. Contract amendments that increase contract costs may only be made with the approval of the CDE, the SBE, and the California Department of Finance (DOF).

## Recommendation

The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the proposed CAASPP contract renewal (CN150012 Amendment 5), and authorize the CDE to make technical edits as needed.

## Brief History of Key Issues

In May 2015, the SBE designated Educational Testing Service (ETS) as the CAASPP contractor for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 test administrations. The 2017–18 school year marks the fourth full operational test administration for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium portion of the CAASPP System.

Pursuant to *EC* Section 60640, the CDE is continuing to work toward implementing the CAASPP System, including the development of the successor assessments to replace the current paper-pencil science, science alternate, and primary language assessments. These successor assessments are the California Science Test (CAST) aligned with California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS); the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science based on the Core Content Connectors for the CA NGSS; and the California Spanish Assessment (CSA) aligned with the Common Core State Standards in Español.

In July 2017, the SBE directed the CDE to begin the process of renewing the CAASPP contract and amend the contract end date from December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2020; negotiate, in conjunction with SBE and DOF staff, an amended Scope of Work (SOW) to add the 2019 and 2020 testing administrations and increase the overall budget by an amount not to exceed $157 million, subject to appropriation of the Legislature; and present a draft contract amendment, consistent with the SBE’s recommendations, to the SBE for consideration no later than January 2018.

The following SBE goals are addressed in the amended SOW:

* Ongoing administration of all components of the CAASPP System
* Technical work associated with preparing and administering the operational assessments currently under development (e.g., CAST, CAA for Science; and CSA)
* Enhancements to the reporting of student results, including increasing translations of student reports and paperless reporting options
* Enhancements to the technical hosting solution to allow for future growth and scalability

Representatives from the CDE, the SBE, and the DOF began negotiations with ETS on July 12, 2017, which culminated in a proposed contract amendment (CN150012 Amendment 5), including an Executive Summary, proposed SOW, and the budget (Attachments 1, 2, and 3).

In addition to the above SBE goals, the negotiated SOW also includes the following key enhancements:

* ETS has expanded the CAASPP Assessment Delivery System capacity to support 2,000,000 concurrent users from the previous dedicated support for 500,000 concurrent users.
* ETS will provide access to Student Score Reports to local educational agencies, or their authorized student information system vendors, in electronic formats suitable for loading directly into their local student information systems.
* ETS will work with the CDE to consider additional studies and analyses. Studies for consideration may include the investigation of best methods to communicate student growth to parents and educators; the impact of course-taking patterns for the CAST and Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for mathematics; the impact of student motivation for the CAST; and/or additional information that could be provided to parents and educators by using the CSA and Smarter Balanced English language arts scores together.
* ETS will perform the calculations for the SBE-approved growth model and will include the results in the data files provided to the CDE.

Negotiated amendments to the contract also address contract language which ensures adherence to the CDE’s contract with Smarter Balanced.

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

In July 2017, the SBE approved the CAASPP contract renewal negotiation process with ETS, the CDE, the SBE, and the DOF (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/jul17item04.doc>).

In May 2017, the SBE approved the CAASPP contract negotiated with ETS, the CDE, the SBE, and the DOF (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/may17item02.doc>).

In March 2017, the SBE approved the CAASPP contract amendment negotiation process with ETS, the CDE, the SBE, and the DOF (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/mar17item06.doc>).

In September 2016, the SBE approved the *Proposed High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment* and revised the implementation timeline, thus allowing the test development activities included in the CAASPP System administration contract to continue (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/sep16item04.doc>).

In July 2016, the SBE approved the conceptual design for the CAA for Science. The approval of this design allowed the CDE to begin work on the development of the pilot plan and the materials for the spring 2017 pilot test administration (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/jul16item01.doc>).

In March 2016, the SBE approved the CAST general assessment design. The CAST is aligned with the *California* *Next Generation Science Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve*, as required by California *EC* Section 60605.85 and which was adopted by the SBE in September 2013 (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/mar16item02.doc>).

In May 2015, the SBE approved the CAASPP contract negotiated with ETS, the CDE, the SBE, and the DOF (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/may15item01.doc>).

In March 2015, the SBE adopted the SSPI recommendation to designate ETS as the CAASPP contractor and requested a draft contract be provided at the May 2015 SBE meeting (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/mar15item04.doc>).

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The proposed renewal of the CAASPP administration contract with ETS would increase the overall contract costs by approximately $157 million. The total proposed contract amount is $398,910,984.

The CDE anticipates that the proposed 2018–19 Budget Act will provide a total of $93,040,414 in funding for multiple CAASPP System contract costs; the anticipated appropriation is sufficient to cover all costs of the proposed renewal for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

There is currently $93,040,414 in proposed contract obligations for the CAASPP System contracts which includes $82,790,414 in funding for the proposed ETS CAASPP renewal contract activities in 2018–19. CAASPP contract amendments that increase contract costs may only be made with the approval of the CDE, the SBE, and the DOF. Funding for 2019–20 and beyond will be contingent upon an annual appropriation being made available from the Legislature in future fiscal years.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: CAASPP Renewal Executive Summary (4 Pages)
* Attachment 2: Exhibit A: Proposed Scope of Work (312 Pages)
* Attachment 3: Proposed Budget (7 Pages)