This is Item 07 Attachment 01 from the California State Board of Education (SBE) Meeting Agenda for January 2018 posted at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/agenda201801.asp>.

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# CAASPP Renewal Executive Summary

In responding to the requirements of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) contract renewal to administer the CAASPP assessments during the 2018–19 and 2019–20 administrations, Educational Testing Service (ETS) continues to demonstrate its 15-yearlong commitment to the California testing system. Since the launch of the 2014 Smarter Balanced field test, ETS has partnered with California to navigate a successful transition to computer-based testing. The CAASPP contract renewal scope of work (SOW) presents solutions and benefits that the ETS team brings to California by growing on a base of impressive results; partnering with California to bring new resources to schools, educators, students and parents/guardians; and incorporating feedback from multiple sources on an ongoing basis to continually improve the system.

The CAASPP contract renewal SOW describes ways in which ETS will help the California Department of Education (CDE) and State Board of Education (SBE) realize the state’s evolving vision for assessment over the contract’s two years and specifically addresses the SBE’s four goals, as outlined in its July 2017 action.

SBE Goal 1—Ongoing Administration of All Components of the CAASPP System

During the 2016–17 administration, ETS and its partners successfully delivered more than 14 million assessments, including the pilot test for the California Science Test (CAST) and the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science. ETS also successfully delivered approximately 7 million Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments to students in kindergarten through grade twelve. During that administration, the CAASPP System supported an average of 79,394 concurrent test takers per day, peaking at almost a half million students on May 9, 2017.

To continue the successful ongoing administration of CAASPP, ETS will perform the following:

* Implement improvements to the risk management processes to more efficiently monitor all components of the CAASPP System, including the new operational assessments.
* Improve the process to collect local educational agency (LEA) and educator input and feedback more often and more effectively.
* Improve efficiencies in the California Technical Assistance Center (CalTAC) and tiered help-desk support processes to confirm continued delivery of excellent technical assistance.
* Provide information and metrics to LEAs to assist them in their test administration and reporting activities.

SBE Goal 2—Technical Work Associated with Preparing and Administering the Operational Assessments Currently Under Development (i.e., CAST, CAA for Science, and CSA)

California embarked on new frontiers in assessment item types, alignment, accessibility, and scoring with the development of the CAST, the CAA for Science, and the California Spanish Assessment (CSA). The work on CAST and CAA for Science includes groundbreaking methods for assessing students in California’s Next Generation Science Standards. The CAA for Science, in particular, features the creation and implementation of new models that better align with the instructional needs of teachers in the classroom. The CSA holds a unique position in the United States as the first primary language test that measures a student's competency in Spanish language arts, provides student-level data in Spanish competency, and evaluates the implementation of Spanish language arts programs at the local level.

During the renewal period, ETS will continue to enhance the CAASPP and will:

* Administer, score, and report the CAST and CSA operationally for the first time in the 2018–19 administration.
* Administer, score, and report the CAA for Science operationally for the first time in the 2019–20 administration.
* Produce and publish annotations to the practice tests for the CAAs (English language arts/literacy, mathematics, and science), CAST, and CSA to support parents/guardians, educators, and community members in understanding the CAASPP assessments, understanding how children across the state are performing in the subject areas tested, identifying areas in which students need additional help, and understanding where to get more help.
* Engage national experts to obtain advice and guidance during the operational rollout of the CAST, CAA for Science, and CSA.
* Set standards, including the setting of scale scores, performance levels, and achievement level descriptors, for the CAST, CSA, and CAA for Science.
* Implement “score banking” of the CAST and CAA for Science in high school that will include an online report for LEAs listing the students who previously took or were exempt from taking the science test in either grade ten or eleven.
* Develop and conduct range finding with California educators for constructed response test questions for the CAST and CSA. Information from the CAST range finding will be developed to train and calibrate the human raters, who will score the constructed-response items. Information from the CSA range finding will be developed into training materials for LEAs to use in their local scoring activities.

SBE Goal 3— Enhancements to the Reporting of Student Results, Including Increasing Translations of Student Reports and Paperless Reporting Options

During the CAASPP contract and renewal period, ETS will fully support California in realizing one of the SBE’s long-term goals: to produce and deliver student results to help improve a student’s access to instruction and education resources. Beginning with the 2018–19 administration, ETS will implement paperless reporting of Student Score Reports (SSRs) to LEA student information systems. Paperless reporting of test results will:

* Reduce the turnaround time for delivering final SSRs to LEAs.
  + A final SSR for a student will be released to the LEA within four (4) weeks after the student has completed all components of the assessments for the last content area. Currently, the final paper SSR for a student is released to the LEA when the LEA has completed the test administration for the entire district.
* Enhance and expand the SSRs beyond a single sheet of paper.
  + The SSR can include dynamic information based on the student’s test results. Examples of additional dynamic information include growth measures, comparisons to the state percentiles, and recommended resources.
* Incorporate the reporting of the new operational assessments, which may require different information in their first operational years.
  + For example, information included in the SSR for the first operational year of CAST and CSA may focus on introducing parents/guardians to the new assessments, whereas the SSRs for the second operational year may focus on student progress from one year to the next.
* Offer multiple language translations of the paperless SSR beyond the English and Spanish versions currently provided.
  + ETS proposes the addition of three languages—Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Filipino—with the potential to add more languages.

ETS also will provide additional support to the CDE to meet state and federal reporting requirements.

* ETS will calculate and report results using the SBE-approved growth model.
* ETS will produce state-level cross tabulations of test results as directed by the CDE, summaries of accessibility supports used by students, and reports and recommendations based on special studies conducted on relevant topics.

SBE Goal 4—Enhancements to the Technical Hosting Solution to Allow for Future Growth and Scalability

During the original contract period, ETS improved the technical hosting solution to meet the needs of a constantly changing system. ETS plans to continue enhancing the technical hosting solution during the contract renewal period to reflect three important considerations that facilitate future growth: user experience, integration of functionality, and maximization of technology solutions.

To that end, ETS will:

* Increase user concurrency limits to 2,000,000 to accommodate expanding access to the CAASPP assessments.
* Implement context-sensitive online help within the CAASPP assessment delivery system to improve the turnaround time and to release secure test administration information, such as directions for administration, which may include operational test questions.
* Integrate the CAASPP Security and Test Administration Incident Reporting System with ETS systems for a seamless flow of appeals and incident reporting by LEAs.
* Implement a cloud-based solution that is nimble, secure, and independent of proprietary systems, including those of ETS and its subcontractors. The cloud-based solution will support the delivery of paperless student score reporting to LEAs.
* Improve system functionality to simplify access to the Test Operations Management System (TOMS), including automating the process for designating the LEA CAASPP coordinator and LEA testing window, when not designated by the LEA, and having a single TOMS username and password to access multiple roles.
* Support the adaptive interim assessments if they become available from Smarter Balanced during the renewal period.
* Identify tools and propose recommendations, solutions, and applications that improve the delivery of CAASPP and non-CAASPP assessments administered by the CDE.

ETS looks forward to continuing its partnership with California to provide assessments that not only measure student achievement but also provide information both to teachers to inform instructional decisions and to parents to plan for their child’s educational future.