

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education September 2018 Agenda Item #03

## Subject

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress: Update on Program Activities Related to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System, Including But not Limited to, a Presentation on the Electronic Reporting Pilot.

## Type of Action

Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

This information item provides a summary of recent events and developments related to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System, including the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments; the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments; the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics; the full-census field test of the California Science Test (CAST); the full-census pilot test, year two, of the CAA for Science; the Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS); and the field test of the California Spanish Assessment (CSA).

## Recommendation

No specific action is recommended at this time.

## Brief History of Key Issues

Updates are provided about the CAASPP System, including, but not limited to, the administrative status of summative assessments, the development of the science and primary language assessments, the development or availability of new reports, and the development of additional resources.

### Update on 2017–18 Administration of CAASPP

#### Smarter Balanced English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics

The state testing window for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics opened on January 9, 2018, and closed on July 16, 2018. On May 8, 2018, California experienced a record 570,745 concurrent test takers. As of July 16, 2018, over three million students have completed the ELA and mathematics assessments.

In mid-May, preliminary student scores and aggregate reports became available electronically through the secure Online Reporting System for local educational agencies (LEAs). Once the LEA’s administration reached 90 percent of students’ tests having been scored, Student Score Reports (SSRs) were generated, printed, and shipped to the LEA.

#### California Science Test

The CAST field test administration began on April 2, 2018, and ended on July 16, 2018. The CDE successfully administered the CAST field test to over 1.46 million students. In August, the CDE provided an update on the main development activities related to the first operational administration of the CAST and the activities in preparation for the CAA for Science field test.

In preparation for the first operational administration of the CAST, in 2018–19, the CDE, in collaboration with Educational Testing Service (ETS) and four California science teachers of the visually impaired, met on July 16 and 17, 2018, to review items for content appropriateness, fairness, and accessibility for visually impaired students.

For the 2017–18 school year, California is reporting preliminary results for the CAST field test as required by the U.S. Department of Education. Student results will include preliminary indicators consisting of a percent correct score and a category description that will be provided to parents/guardians by the LEAs. The CDE will provide LEAs with the student preliminary indicators in fall 2018. In addition, these results will be aggregated by the state, county, LEA, and school levels as well as by student groups to meet federal reporting obligations. These results will be available to the public on the CDE CAASPP Results website at <https://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/>. More information about the preliminary indicators can be found on the Preliminary Indicator Communication Toolkit web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/prelimindicatortoolkit.asp>.

#### California Alternate Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, and Science

##### ***CAA for ELA and Mathematics***

The administration of the CAAs for ELA and mathematics began on January 9, 2018. As of July 16, 2018, approximately 35,000 students took the CAAs for ELA and mathematics.

Educators met to analyze results of field test items to improve overall test quality. Part of this improvement includes post-equating the CAAs for ELA and mathematics, which would allow more flexibility in refreshing items on the test. These improvements include reducing text complexity, refining alternate text for students with visual impairments, and phasing out item types that do not perform as well as expected. The goal is to transition to pre-equating so that student score results are available sooner.

##### ***CAA for Science***

Approximately 16,000 students completed the full-census pilot test, year two, for the CAA for Science, which began on November 1, 2017 and ended on July 16, 2018. The CAA for Science aligns with the Core Content Connectors derived from the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS). These innovative embedded performance tasks (PTs) were administered to eligible students in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve) whose individualized education program identified the use of an alternate assessment.

The CDE, in collaboration with the ETS and California educators, met in July 2018 to review items used on the pilot test and begin writing new items, which may be used in the 2019−20 operational CAA for Science.

For the 2017–18 school year, California is reporting results for the CAA for Science, year 2 pilot to meet federal reporting requirements. This reporting will occur with the same timeline as the CAST. For the 2018–19 CAA for Science field test, the CDE will provide preliminary indicators for a second year because the test will not yet be operational. More information about the preliminary indicators can be found on the Preliminary Indicator Communication Toolkit web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/prelimindicatortoolkit.asp>.

#### Standards-based Tests in Spanish

The administration window for the STS opened on February 28, 2018 and closed on July 16, 2018. By the end of the window, approximately 7,000 students’ tests were submitted. This was the final administration of the STS; the CSA will be operational in spring 2019.

#### California Spanish Assessment

California educators participated in a review of the CSA content-specific achievement level descriptors (ALDs) July 18–19, 2018, in preparation for standard setting scheduled for August 2019.

The CSA field test administration window opens on September 19, 2018, and closes on October 12, 2018. Over 50 LEAs have agreed to participate in the field test.

California educators will meet in November 2018 to review item statistics obtained from the field test to determine whether there are any items that should be set aside for revision and/or excluded from the operational assessment. In addition, approved items will be included in the item bank for future operational forms.

#### Technology Update

The CDE continues to assist the K–12 High Speed Network (K12HSN) with the implementation of the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG) programs, which are designed to assist schools in improving their connection to the Internet to administer computer-based assessments. As of July 2018, 380 total sites have begun the process of receiving improved connections with the benefit of state funding through the BIIG process. Of these, 320 are complete, 36 are in progress, and 29 are in the earliest stages. K12HSN is determining which of the 29 projects will move forward. Twenty-one Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) accepting ongoing costs have been collected, 3 sites have declined the grant, and 5 sites are pending receipt of their signed MOU. Of the 29 sites, 21 sites were included on the list provided by Department of Finance to the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee for review. The Department of Finance approved these projects on May 29, 2018.

#### Electronic Student Score Reports

The CDE continues its transition to electronic CAASPP student score reports (SSRs), which are being phased in over a three-year period to provide LEAs with the necessary information and time to make the transition successfully. The transition is taking place in the following phases:

* Phase 1—Pilot (2017–18)
* Phase 2—Initial Implementation (2018–19)
* Phase 3—Full Implementation (2019–20)

Electronic SSRs provide LEAs with the flexibility to determine the delivery method of the SSRs to parents and guardians. For example, LEAs can make SSRs available through their student information system (SIS) parent portal instead of printing and mailing them. This new electronic option will reduce the turnaround time for delivering SSRs to LEAs and the costs associated with the handling and mailing them to parents/guardians. In addition, contractual cost savings from the electronic delivery of reports allows for the expansion of translations to several languages beyond English and Spanish and offers more flexibility to expand the amount of information in the SSR and its presentation (e.g., color, spacing, format) in order to increase parent/guardian understanding and family engagement. A brief presentation by pilot partners will be provided at the September SBE meeting and the new SSR template will be presented in an October Memorandum.

During Phase 1, the CDE and the CAASPP testing contractor, ETS, worked with the following LEAs and student information system (SIS) vendors, which had volunteered to participate in the Phase 1 pilot to test the technology solution for delivering electronic CAASPP SSRs:

* El Monte Union High School District
* Irvine Unified School District (via Aeries SIS)
* Los Angeles Unified School District
* Porterville Unified School District (via Aeries SIS)
* Silver Valley Unified School District (via Infinite Campus SIS)
* Victor Valley High School District (via Aeries SIS)
* Waterford Unified School District (via Infinite Campus SIS)

All LEAs, including those that participated in the pilot, received paper SSRs during Phase 1.

During Phase 2, the CDE and ETS will work with all LEAs to implement electronic delivery of CAASPP SSRs statewide. While the default delivery method for 2018–19 CAASPP SSRs will be electronic, LEAs that demonstrate a strong need for continued paper SSRs because of technology constraints may request support through an application process. For LEAs that wish to purchase paper SSRs, ETS will provide the supplemental service of printing SSRs for a fee.

During Phase 3, all LEAs will use the electronic reporting process either by delivering the reports electronically or by printing locally. A meeting with all SIS vendors was held on July 26, 2018. Vendors received a detailed project schedule, technology solution specifications, and the plan for conducting user acceptance testing in preparation for accessing electronic SSRs.

### Supports and Preparations for Local Educational Agencies

#### Recap of Summer Institute Success

The CDE, in partnership with ETS, conducted the Summer Institute 2018 for LEA teams to learn strategies for using the CAASPP System to improve teaching and learning. The two-day training, “Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning,” was offered at eight locations throughout the state. Approximately 900 educators attended the Summer Institute sessions, which provided classroom teachers, instructional coaches, and teachers on special assignment in kindergarten through grade twelve with an understanding of the ways a balanced approach to assessment can support student learning.

The goals of the Summer Institute, 2018, are for participants to:

* Understand the purpose of different types of assessment and how they work together to support student learning.
* Understand the design of Smarter Balanced interim assessment items aligned with college-and-career-ready standards and use hand scoring to analyze student work.
* Know how to use the interim assessment and Digital Library systems, including accessibility features, to support teaching and learning.
* Understand the value of and connection between teaching and learning.
* Plan for how and when to use assessment to support teaching and learning.

#### Smarter Balanced Digital Library Summer Workshop

In July 2018, Smarter Balanced convened 118 educators from member states for its annual Digital Library summer workshop. Participants included members of the Digital Library State Network of Educators (SNE), the team of educators from member states who are trained to develop and review resources for the Digital Library. In addition to SNE members, several members of the State Leadership Team (SLT) attended. The SLT consists of staff members from state education agencies who provide guidance to SNE members within their state. The workshop was organized to allow SNE members from throughout the consortium to collaborate in creating new resources for the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. Many of the resources developed during the workshop addressed gaps in Digital Library content that had been pre-identified by Smarter Balanced. California was represented by two SLT members and 10 SNE members. The workshop produced 91 formative assessment resources, which add to the more than 3,000 resources available to California educators in the Digital Library.

#### Upcoming Training Opportunities for California Educators

##### ***2018 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting***

The 2018 North-South Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting, hosted by the CDE, will be held in Sacramento on September 20, 2018, and Ontario on September 27, 2018. The meeting will provide assessment and accountability coordinators with the latest information and updates on California's assessment and accountability systems. The meeting in Ontario will also be offered as a live webcast on September 27, 2018, and will be archived for later viewing. Registration information is available at <https://www.eventsforce.net/scoe/frontend/reg/tOtherPage.csp?pageID=3945&eventID=13>.

##### ***2018–19 CAASPP Institute***

The CDE, in partnership with the Sacramento County Office of Education, is conducting the CAASPP Institute for LEA teams to learn strategies for using the CAASPP System to improve teaching and learning. The two-day training will be offered at six locations throughout the state and will include a combination of large-group and topic-driven breakout sessions. Attendees also will have opportunities for collaboration and guided planning. More information regarding the CAASPP Institute can be found on the registration Web page at <https://www.eventsforce.net/scoe/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=2953&eventID=11>. The CAASPP Institute dates and locations are as follows:

| **Dates** | **Location** |
| --- | --- |
| October 3–4, 2018 | Sacramento |
| October 10–11, 2018 | Pasadena |
| October 17–18, 2018 | Fresno |
| October 22–23, 2018 | San Diego |
| October 24–25, 2018 | Redding |
| October 29–30, 2018 | Riverside |

##### ***2018–19 CAST Academy***

The CAST Academy is a one-day training for LEA and site science instructional leaders, including teachers, teacher leaders, teachers on special assignment, trainers, and instructional coaches. In addition, this training would benefit curriculum, professional development, and assessment leaders. More information regarding the CAST Academy can be found on the registration Web page at <https://www.eventsforce.net/scoe/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=3310&eventID=12>. The CAST Academy dates and locations are as follows:

| **Date** | **Location** |
| --- | --- |
| October 2, 2018 | Sacramento |
| October 9, 2018 | Riverside |
| October 16, 2018 | San Diego |
| October 23, 2018 | Clovis |
| October 30, 2018 | Los Angeles |

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

In August 2018, the CDE provided the SBE with an Information Memorandum that provided an update on the development of both new science assessments, the CAST and the CAA for Science (https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/infomemoaug2018.asp).

In July 2018, the SBE approved a request for Authority to Enter into Negotiations to Amend ETS’s CAASPP Contract to Include the Integration of the ELPAC and Enter into Negotiations with the University of California, Santa Cruz for an Interagency Agreement to Provide an Educator Reporting System (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/documents/jul18item03.docx>).

In June 2018, the CDE provided the SBE with an Information Memorandum that included an update on the ELPAC and a review of the Preliminary Results of the Enhanced Assessment Grant for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-pptb-adad-jun18item02.docx>) (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-pptb-adad-jun18item02a01.pdf>).

In May 2018, the CDE provided the SBE with updates on the CAASPP System (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/documents/may18item03.docx>).

In March 2018, the CDE provided the SBE with updates on the CAASPP System (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/documents/mar18item08.docx>).

In January 2018, the SBE approved the CAA for Science test blueprint, general ALDs, and score reporting structure (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/main201801.asp>).

In December 2017, the CDE provided the SBE with an Information Memorandum that included updates on the CAASPP System (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-pptb-adad-dec17item01.doc>)

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/memo-pptb-adad-dec17item01a01.asp>).

In November 2017, the SBE approved the CAST and CSA test blueprints, general ALDs, and score reporting structures (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/agenda201711.asp>).

In October 2017, the CDE provided the SBE with an Information Memorandum that included updates on the CAASPP System (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-pptb-adad-oct17item02.doc>).

In September 2016, the SBE approved the CSA high-level test design (HLTD), including the test purpose (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/main201609.asp>).

In July 2016, the SBE approved the CAA for Science HLTD (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/jul16item01.doc>).

In January 2016, November 2015, and September 2015, the CDE provided the SBE with updates on the CA NGSS assessments (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/jan16item03.doc>)

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/nov15item03.doc>)

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/sep15item01.doc>).

In January 2016, the SBE approved the CAASPP SSR for 2016–17 and beyond (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/jan16item04.doc>).

In July 2015, June 2015, and May 2015, the CDE provided the SBE with updates on the CA NGSS assessments (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/jul15item03.doc>)

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-dsib-adad-jun15item03.doc>)

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/may15item02.doc>).

In May 2015, the SBE designated ETS as the CAASPP contractor for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 test administrations, including the test development, pilot testing, and field testing of three new CA NGSS science assessments (including the CA NGSS alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities) in the grades and content areas to be approved by the SBE. This included a new primary language assessment aligned with the Common Core State Standards

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/may15item01.doc>).

In March 2015, the SBE approved the CAASPP SSR, with technical edits (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/documents/mar15item03.doc>).

## Fiscal Analysis

The 2018–19 Budget Act includes $92,985,000 in funding for multiple CAASPP System contract costs. This funding is being utilized for:

* Contract activities provided by ETS ($82,754,000), as approved by the SBE, for test administration and development activities
* A contract with the University of California, Santa Cruz ($9,550,000) that provides Smarter Balanced consortium-managed services, including access to the Smarter Balanced summative assessments, interim assessments, and Digital Library tools
* A contract with the Human Resources Research Organization ($680,792) for a multiyear independent evaluation of the CAASPP System, per requirements in California *EC* Section 60649

Funding for 2019–20 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 (4 pages)

# Attachment 1: Outreach and Professional Development Activities

The California Department of Education (CDE), in coordination with California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) contractors, has provided a variety of outreach activities, including in-person workshops, focus group meetings, and presentations throughout the state to prepare local educational agencies for the administration of the CAASPP System. In addition, the CDE continues to release information regarding the CAASPP System, including weekly updates, on its website and through listserv email. The following tables provide descriptions of outreach and professional development activities during July and August 2018.

## Table 1. Trainings

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7/16–17 | Sacramento | 367 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning*  The Summer Institute was for classroom teachers, instructional coaches, and teachers on special assignment in kindergarten through grade twelve looking to understand how different types of assessment work together to support student learning. Participants were trained on the analysis and hand scoring of student work. |
| 7/24–25 | Los Angeles | 355 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning* |
| 7/26–27 | San Diego | 379 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning* |
| 7/31–8/1 | Hayward | 222 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning* |
| 8/6–7 | Clovis | 311 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning* |
| 8/14–15 | Riverside | 338 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning* |
| 8/16–17 | Woodland Hills | 158 | 2018–19 Summer Institute: *Analyzing Student Work and Using the Interim and Digital Library Systems to Inform Teaching and Learning* |

## Table 2. Advisory Panel/Review Committee Meetings

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7/10 | Online | 8 | 2018–19 CAASPP Student Score Report Parent Focus Group Meeting |
| 7/16–17 | Online | 6 | California Science Test Twinned Item Review  Purpose of this meeting is for California educators to review items that have been twinned for accessibility. |
| 7/16–17 | Online | 4 – Math  5 – ELA | California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for English Language Arts/literacy and Mathematics Data Review Meeting |
| 7/16–18 | Rosemont, IL | 13 | Smarter Balanced Digital Library Workshop  Purpose of this meeting was to allow State Network of Education members from throughout the consortium to collaborate in the creation of new resources for the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. |
| 7/18–19 | Sacramento | 21 | California Spanish Assessment Achievement Level Descriptors Meeting  Educators met to provide input for the content-specific achievement level descriptors in preparation for standard setting in summer 2019. |
| 7/19 | Online | 15 | Statewide Assessment Stakeholders Meeting  Meeting topics included key messages for electronic reporting and preliminary indicators for science, as well as collaborative review, discussion, and feedback. |
| 7/24 | Sacramento | 6 | CAA for Science Data Review Meeting  Purpose of this meeting was to review pilot-tested items from the CAA for Science embedded performance tasks (PTs) with California educators. |
| 7/25–26 | Sacramento | 6 | CAA for Science Item Writing Meeting  Purpose of this meeting was for California educators to receive training on how to write items for the embedded PTs. These embedded PT items are being developed in preparation for the first operational CAA for Science, which will be in 2019–20. |
| 7/30–8/2 | Rosemont, IL | 12 | Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics Item Review and Item Writing Meeting  Purpose of this meeting was to review items designated for field testing for content, bias/sensitivity, and accessibility and to write items for committee review/field testing. |
| 8/9 | Online | 15 | Smarter Balanced Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  The Smarter Balanced Technical Advisory Committee met to review such topics as the new focused IABs and additional analysis for the illustrated glossary. |
| 8/23 | Sacramento | 50 | Advisory Commission on Special Education  Assessment update and an overview of the Individual Assessment Profile (ISAAP) Process. |