

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education July 2024 Agenda Item #04

## Subject

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California: Updates on Program Activities.

## Type of Action

Information

## Summary of the Issue

This item provides a summary of recent developments and updates related to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). Attachment 1 provides the CAASPP and ELPAC outreach and professional development activities from May through June 2024.

## Recommendation

This item is information only. No specific action is recommended at this time.

## Brief History of Key Issues

During the March meeting, the California State Board of Education (SBE) approved the Finding of Emergency to adjust the regulations surrounding the CAASPP state testing window so that the 2023–24 CAASPP state testing window closes on June 30, or the weekday preceding June 30 if June 30 is not on a weekday. This change was determined necessary so that all CAASPP aggregate results can be publicly reported on the Test Results for California's Assessments website on or before October 15, 2024, per Section 60641 of the California *Education Code*. The emergency regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and became effective on April 2, 2024. During its March 2024 meeting, the SBE also approved the commencement of the regular rulemaking process to make the change to the CAASPP state testing window permanent.

## Updates on Assessment Program Activities

The following sections provide a summary of developments and updates related to the 2023–24 state testing windows, 2023–24 test results available for local use, website redesign for CAASPP and ELPAC, enhancements to the California Educator Reporting System (CERS), interim assessments, and Tools for Teachers.

### 2023–24 State Testing Windows Closed

The 2023–24 CAASPP and ELPAC state testing windows are now closed. The ELPAC state testing window closed on May 31, 2024; and the CAASPP state testing window closed on June 28, 2024. All remaining tests to be reported have been moved to the scoring and reporting processes.

### 2023–24 Test Results Available for Local Use

Results for the CAASPP and ELPAC are now available to students, parents/guardians, educators, and local educational agencies (LEAs). Before the initial release of results, the California Department of Education (CDE) and its testing contractor, ETS, conducted a series of annual quality control processes to ensure that all information reported is accurate and all reports are generated correctly. Following the initial release of results, the Test Operations Management System (TOMS) and CERS are updated daily to reflect all tests that have been scored and are ready for reporting. Each individual Student Score Report (SSR) is provided to LEAs for distribution to parents/guardians once all tests within the SSR are ready for reporting. LEAs are encouraged to use the data available to them in TOMS and CERS for local planning.

On May 21, 2024, SSRs were released for the 2023–24 administration of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics, as well as the California Science Test (CAST). On May 23, 2024, SSRs were released for the 2023–24 administration of the Summative ELPAC for kindergarten through grade twelve. It is expected that SSRs for the 2023–24 administration of the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA, Mathematics, and Science, as well as the California Spanish Assessment (CSA), will be released in September 2024.

### Website Redesign

The CAASPP and ELPAC test administration websites have been redesigned and combined into one website. These websites are primarily used by our LEA assessment coordinators, and it was their feedback that was gathered from focus groups, surveys, and live polls during CAASPP and ELPAC coffee sessions convened by the CDE that drove the redesign effort. The new website offers a more streamlined interface and better organization of resources while still maintaining the identity of CAASPP and ELPAC resources so users can easily distinguish between the two programs.

Based on feedback from LEAs, the timeline to launch the new website was changed to keep the original individual CAASPP and ELPAC websites available for the 2023–24 administration, with the new website launching in July. Visual enhancements include moving buttons on the web pages so they would be visible without scrolling, and menus were alphabetized where applicable. A link to Tools for Teachers was added on the home page for teachers seeking non-test administration actions. Another link was also added to direct users to the Test Results for California's Assessments website. Furthermore, a section for parents/guardians was added to the bottom of the home page.

The CDE conducted internal reviews of the website from April 8–26, 2024. There was a soft launch for LEA assessment coordinators on May 6, 2024, giving them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new website before the 2024–25 test administration. A live demonstration of the new website was held on May 21, 2024, for LEA coordinators. The new website, [https://caaspp-elpac.org](https://caaspp-elpac.org/), was officially launched on July 3, 2024.

### Recent and Upcoming Enhancements to the California Educator Reporting System

CERS is a secure website LEA staff can use to access individual and aggregate student results from CAASPP and ELPAC summative and interim assessments. The CDE has a contract with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) for the ongoing development and maintenance of CERS.

The CDE and Smarter Balanced collaborate regularly to identify, evaluate, and prioritize CERS enhancement ideas from end users across California and the consortium. During the 2023–24 school year, system enhancements focused on the inclusion of data associated with the new CAST and ELPAC Interim Assessments. In spring 2024, two new data elements were introduced in the CERS user interface for summative assessment results:

* Composite claim results for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and Mathematics—CERS now displays two ELA composite claims: 1) Reading and Listening, and 2) Writing and Research. For mathematics, CERS displays two composite claims: 1) Concepts and Procedures, and 2) Mathematical Practices. Composite claim results provide more detailed student performance information for educators when reviewing ELA and mathematics summative assessment results. In addition, LEA testing coordinators and administrators can create composite claim aggregate reports within CERS.
* ELPAC domain level indicators—CERS now provides more information for educators when a student has no score available for ELPAC domains. If appropriate, “Not Tested” and “Exempted” now display in the user interface and downloadable reports.

In September 2024, Individual Student Reports (ISRs) will become available in CERS for the CAST and ELPAC Interim Assessments. Similar to the entire CERS interface, the ISRs in CERS are primarily designed for use by teachers to guide decision-making for instruction.

### Interim Assessments Update

While optional for LEAs to use, the CAASPP and ELPAC Interim Assessments (IAs) are a widely used component of the California assessment system. The interim assessments are available to LEAs year-round and provide meaningful information to guide instruction and support student learning. During the 2023–24 school year, more than 9.3 million Smarter Balanced IAs for ELA and mathematics were started across more than 1,400 LEAs. In October 2023, CAST and ELPAC IAs were first introduced for LEAs to administer. Since their debut, more than 310,000 CAST IAs were started across more than 740 LEAs, and more than 390,000 ELPAC IAs were started across 950 LEAs.

On August 6, 2024, the 2024–25 IAs will become available to LEAs. The 2024–25 IAs will include:

* Smarter Balanced ELA and Math IAs—More than 220 IA forms will be available, including 19 new Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs)—5 for math and 14 for ELA.
* CAST IAs—18 CAST IA forms will be available, including 9 new forms.
* ELPAC IAs—On August 6, 2024, the 28 ELPAC IA forms available last year will be available for the new school year. On September 17, 2024, 28 new ELPAC IA forms will be added to the pool of available ELPAC IAs.

### Tools for Teachers Update

Tools for Teachers is the formative assessment component of California’s statewide assessment system. Developed and maintained by Smarter Balanced, it provides educators with instructional and professional learning resources. These resources, developed by educators in member states, incorporate formative assessment and accessibility strategies to support instruction and improve student learning in the classroom.

Smarter Balanced facilitates the development of resources aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for ELA and mathematics, while the CDE has facilitated the development of resources aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS). In addition, the CDE is facilitating the development of professional learning resources that educators can use to support English learner students in the classroom.

In addition to regularly adding resources to the Tools for Teachers website, Smarter Balanced implements website updates based on user experience feedback from consortium members, including California. Recent and upcoming enhancements focus on making site navigation easier through streamlined search features. The Tools for Teachers website is available to all California LEA staff at <https://www.smartertoolsforteachers.org/> (account required).

#### Smarter Balanced Tools for Teachers Summer Workshop

In July 2024, Smarter Balanced will conduct a workshop for members of the State Network of Educators (SNE) to develop ELA and mathematics resources for inclusion in the Tools for Teachers website. SNE members consist of teams of ELA and mathematics educators from Smarter Balanced member states trained to develop ELA and mathematics formative assessment resources. Smarter Balanced plans to host approximately 90 educators as resource authors, including approximately 20 from California. In addition, three staff members from CDE’s Assessment Development and Administration Division (ADAD) will participate as State Leadership Team members to guide resource development. The goal will be to develop approximately 90 resources for ELA and mathematics for educators to supplement instruction.

All resources developed during this workshop will support teachers in implementing formative assessment and accessibility practices during classroom instruction and are part of the consortium’s ongoing efforts to provide teachers with grade-level resources aligned with the CCSS. Resources developed during this workshop are expected to be available in Tools for Teachers in late fall 2024 and will add to the more than 750 instructional resources already available.

#### Science Resources in Tools for Teachers

Since 2020, the CDE has conducted workshops with California science educators to develop CA NGSS-aligned resources to support the implementation of formative assessment and accessibility strategies during science instruction. Currently, 79 science resources are available in Tools for Teachers. These resources span all three science domains—Earth and Space Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences—and include Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science.

In July 2024, the CDE will conduct an in-person workshop in Sacramento to develop 19 additional science resources. The workshop will include 5 science educators with experience in developing these resources, who will work as team leads, and 19 educators who will work as resource developers. In addition, staff from the CDE ADAD will work as trainers and coaches to assist the educators. The workshop will include the same peer review process as was used in previous workshops to ensure the inclusion of the formative assessment and accessibility strategies, and alignment with the CA NGSS. Resources developed during this workshop are expected to be available in Tools for Teachers in late fall 2024.

#### Development of Professional Learning Resources for Educators About Supporting English Learners

The CDE, in partnership with the Sacramento County Office of Education, is collaborating with a group of California educators with expertise in English language development to create professional learning resources for inclusion in the Tools for Teachers website. These resources will focus on how educators can become familiar with ELPAC task types and how to provide support for students who are English learners in the classroom. The professional learning resources will also support the use of the ELPAC Interim Assessments.

Ten professional learning resources are in development by six English language development expert educators from LEAs to support the Speaking and Writing task types. Each resource is designed to be implemented by a training facilitator with a group of classroom educators. Four of the resources are expected to be available in Tools for Teachers in late fall 2024, with the remaining six in winter.

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

In May 2024, the CDE provided an update on the 2023–24 state testing windows and CERS trainings (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr24/documents/may24item03.docx>).

In July 2023, the CDE provided an update on the Interim Assessment counts and the CERS trainings (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/jul23item03.docx>).

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The fiscal year (FY) 2024–25 Budget Act provides a total of $76,372,000 ($75,829,000 in Proposition 98 General Fund and $543,000 in federal funds) for CAASPP contract activities and $23,676,000 ($6,113,000 in Proposition 98 General Fund and $17,563,000 in federal funds) for ELPAC contract activities. Funding for FY 2025–26 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 (5 Pages)

# Outreach and Professional Development Activities

The California Department of Education (CDE), in coordination with California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) contractors, ETS, and the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), have provided a variety of virtual outreach activities, including workshops, focus group meetings, and presentations, to prepare local educational agencies (LEAs) for the administration of the CAASPP and ELPAC. In addition, the CDE continues to release information regarding assessment program updates, including weekly updates, on its website and through listserv. The following tables provide descriptions of these virtual outreach and professional development activities from May through June 2024.

**Table 1. Trainings**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/7 | Virtual | 408 | Initial ELPAC Administration and Scoring Training (AST) Overview Question and Answer Session  This session was provided to assist LEA ELPAC coordinators and lead trainers. During this session, SCOE introduced updates to the Initial ELPAC, and answered test administration and scoring questions. |
| 5/14 | Virtual | 326 | CAASPP and ELPAC Coffee Session  Hosted by the CDE and ETS, this virtual Coffee Session offered LEA staff an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers about assessments, trainings, resources, and assessment-related developments. |
| 5/16 | Virtual | 274 | Accessing Summative Assessment Results in the California Educator Reporting System (CERS)—Module One  Hosted by ETS, Module One focused on the Summative ELPAC, the Summative Alternate ELPAC, and the California Spanish Assessment (CSA). |
| 5/22 | Virtual | 165 | Initial Alternate ELPAC AST Overview Question and Answer Session  This session was provided to assist LEA ELPAC coordinators and lead trainers. During this session, SCOE introduced updates to the Initial Alternate ELPAC, and answered test administration and scoring questions. |
| 5/23 | Virtual | 192 | Accessing Summative Assessment Results in CERS—Module Two  Hosted by ETS, Module Two focused on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics, the California Science Test (CAST), and the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and mathematics, and science. |
| 6/6 | Virtual | 527 | Scoring and Reporting Webinar  This webinar provided LEA CAASPP and ELPAC Coordinators with information on scoring and reporting. |
| 6/11 | Virtual | 250 | CAASPP and ELPAC Coffee Session  Hosted by the CDE and ETS, this virtual Coffee Session offered LEA staff an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers about assessments, trainings, resources, and assessment-related developments. |
| 6/12 | Virtual | 90 | Data Leadership Session 1—The Role of Summative Data in a Data Use Culture  This direct virtual training is focused on making sense of CAASPP data within a culture of data use for system improvement to promote equitable outcomes for students. |
| 6/13 | Virtual | 90 | Data Leadership Session 2—Putting Data in Context to Make Decisions  This direct virtual training is focused on making sense of CAASPP data within a culture of data use for system improvement to promote equitable outcomes for students. |
| 6/13 | Virtual | 80 | New Coordinator Training #1—Initial ELPAC and Prep for Summative ELPAC  This training provided participants with information on the Initial ELPAC and Preparing for Summative ELPAC. |
| 6/17 | Virtual | 90 | Data Leadership Session 3—Leadership and Culture for Effective Data Use  This direct virtual training is focused on making sense of CAASPP data within a culture of data use for system improvement to promote equitable outcomes for students. |
| 6/20 | Virtual | 90 | Data Leadership Session 4—Shared Practice Panel  This direct virtual training is focused on making sense of CAASPP data within a culture of data use for system improvement to promote equitable outcomes for students. |
| 6/20 | Virtual | 71 | New Coordinator Training #2—Managing Users  This training provided participants with information on managing users. |

**Table 2. Advisory Panel/Review Committee Meetings**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/9, 21, 23 | Virtual | 10 | CSA Writing Range Finding Session 1 (Grades Three and Four, and High School) Benchmark Identification  Participants scored Writing student samples and identified anchor responses to be used in the scoring of the CSA field test items. |
| 5/1-3, 8-10, 14-17 | Virtual | 7 | ELPAC Speaking Range Finding (Kindergarten through Grade Twelve)  Participants scored Speaking student samples and identified anchor responses to be used in the scoring of the ELPAC field test items. |
| 5/14–16 | Virtual | 30 | ELPAC Data Review Meeting (DRM)  Participants reviewed data on the performance of operational ELPAC items. |
| 5/22 | Virtual | 65 | Charter School Assessment Coordinator Network Meeting  Hosted by SCOE, the Charter School LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators learned how other charter schools handle statewide assessment administration and connect with other charter school assessment coordinators. |
| 6/4–5 | Virtual | 10 | CSA Writing Range Finding Session 2 (Grades Five through Eight) Benchmark Identification  Participants scored Writing student samples and identified anchor responses to be used in the scoring of the CSA field test items. |
| 6/18–20 | Virtual | 31 | CAST DRM  Participants reviewed data on the performance of operational items. |
| 6/25–27 | Virtual | 30 | Combined Alternate Assessments DRM  Participants reviewed data on test items and how they are performing in the field. |

**Table 3. Presentations by CDE Staff**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/2–3 | Sacramento | 90 | Bilingual Coordinators Network Meeting  Presenters provided the most recent updates on the ELPAC and CSA programs. |
| 5/15 | Virtual | 25 | Regional Assessment Network Meeting  Staff from the Assessment Development and Administration Division provided updates on program activities and developments. |