



California Department of Education

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May 16, 2024

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-6450

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: California's Application for the Competitive Grants for State Assessments

On behalf of the California State Board of Education, the California Department of Education submits its application for a Competitive Grants for State Assessments (CGSA). The grant will fund the development of innovations to the California Science Test (CAST). The CAST is part of the California Assessments of Student Performance and Progress system of assessments that is administered to nearly three million students in grades three through twelve. As set forth in the application, California will develop and pilot performance tasks embedded in learning that focus on evaluating deeper student learning of the California Next Generation Science Standards. These performance tasks will model high-quality assessments and provide teachers and students with authentic and engaging experience through doing science.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of California's CGSA application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Thurmond".

Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Linda Darling-Hammond".

Linda Darling-Hammond
President
State Board of Education