

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education May 2024 Agenda Item #03

## Subject

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California: Approval of the 2023–24 Apportionment Rates and Updates on Program Activities.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue

The California Department of Education (CDE) seeks approval of the proposed   
2023–24 apportionment rates for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC).

This item provides a summary of developments and updates related to the CAASPP and ELPAC. Attachment 1 provides the CAASPP and ELPAC outreach and professional development activities from March through April 2024.

## Recommendation

The CDE recommends that the California State Board of Education (SBE) approve the following:

1. Per-pupil apportionment rates for the 2023–24 school year (contingent on the availability of an appropriation for this purpose) for the CAASPP tests administered as part of the CAASPP System, as provided in Table 1 of Attachment 2.
2. Per-pupil apportionment rates for the 2023–24 school year (contingent on the availability of an appropriation for this purpose) for the ELPAC tests administered, as provided in Table 2 of Attachment 2.

## Brief History of Key Issues

The following sections detail the CDE’s proposed recommendations to the SBE and provide a summary of developments and updates related to the California Assessment System, which consists of the CAASPP and the ELPAC.

### Proposed 2023–24 Apportionment Rates

California *Education Code* (*EC*) sections 60640(l)(1) and 60810(a)(3) require that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction apportion funds to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the administration of the CAASPP and the ELPAC. The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the per-pupil apportionment rates listed in Tables 1 and 2 of Attachment 2, contingent on the availability of an appropriation for this purpose, for tests administered as part of the CAASPP and the ELPAC during the 2023–24 school year.

Assessment apportionments are not distributed until the following fiscal year when all testing for the previous year has been completed (i.e., LEAs will be reimbursed in   
2024–25 for testing that occurs in 2023–24). Table 1 and Table 2 of Attachment 3 provide the estimated number of pupils tested per grade, by assessment, and the estimated apportionment cost per assessment based on the proposed per-pupil rates. The assessment apportionment funds are unrestricted funds to reimburse LEAs for the following costs:

* All staffing costs, including the LEA coordinator, the test site coordinators, and staff training and other staff expenses, such as test administration time related to testing
* All expenses incurred at the LEA level and site level related to testing
* All transportation costs for delivering and retrieving tests and test materials within the LEA

All covered costs of the collection and submission of student demographic information are associated with the processes necessary to provide the complete and accurate data required for student group reporting per state regulations.

#### **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress per-Pupil Apportionment Rates**

The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the following rates for tests administered as part of the CAASPP System during the 2023–24 school year, which are the same as those for the 2022–23 school year.

* Per-pupil administered any portion of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics—$4.00
* Per-pupil administered any portion of the California Science Test (CAST)—$2.00
* Per-pupil administered any portion of the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and mathematics—$5.00
* Per-pupil administered any portion of the CAA for Science—$5.00
* Per-pupil administered any portion of the California Spanish Assessment (CSA), grades three through eight and high school—$5.00
* Per-pupil apportionment rate for CDE-certified grade two diagnostic tests administered at the option and cost of the LEA per *EC* Section 60644—$2.52
* Per-pupil apportionment rate for not tested due to a medical emergency or parent/guardian exemptions—$1.00

#### **English Language Proficiency Assessments for California per-Pupil Apportionment Rates**

The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the following rates for tests administered as part of the ELPAC during the 2023–24 school year, which are the same as those for the 2022–23 school year.

* Per-pupil administered any portion of the Initial and Summative ELPAC, kindergarten through grade two (one-on-one administration)—$5.50
* Per-pupil administered any portion of the Initial and Summative ELPAC, grades three through twelve—$5.00
* Per-pupil in the Initial ELPAC Rotating Score Validation Process, kindergarten through grade twelve—$0.50
* Per-pupil in the Alternate ELPAC operational field test, kindergarten through grade twelve—$5.50

### Updates on Assessment Program Activities

The following sections provide a summary of developments and updates on transitional kindergarten (TK) students participation on ELPAC, 2023–24 CAASPP and ELPAC state testing windows, California Educator Reporting Systems (CERS) trainings, and the 2024–25 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series.

#### **Transitional Kindergarten Participation on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California**

At the March SBE meeting, board members raised concerns regarding the developmental appropriateness of the ELPAC for TK students. In response to these concerns, CDE is planning to submit an information memo to the Board in June. The memo will provide an overview of the current administration of the ELPAC to TK students and will outline potential assessment and policy considerations for future deliberation by the SBE.

CDE seeks further input from the SBE at the May SBE meeting regarding specific issues or information the members would like included in the June information memorandum.

#### **2023–24 State Testing Windows and Impact of Regulations Change**

The California Assessment System, which consists of the CAASPP and the ELPAC, is administered annually. All CAASPP assessments are administered within a designated CAASPP LEA testing window, determined individually by each LEA within the larger CAASPP state testing window. The state testing window for all CAASPP assessments—with the exception of the CAA for Science—begins no earlier than the second Tuesday in January of each year. The state testing window for the CAA for Science begins on a date in September as determined by the CDE, so that each of the CAA for Science performance tasks can be embedded within the instruction relevant to each performance task. The ELPAC state testing window applies to all LEAs statewide.

In September 2023, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 293, which amended California *EC* Section 60641 to require the CDE to make statewide summative CAASPP results publicly available on or before October 15 each year, beginning with the release of 2023–24 results. To allow the CDE and ETS sufficient time to complete all necessary post-administration processes—such as scoring, quality control reviews, and reporting—prior to the public release of results on or before October 15, the CDE submitted a Finding of Emergency and Proposed Regulations to the SBE. In March 2024, the SBE approved the Finding of Emergency and Commencement of Rulemaking to amend the *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5, Section 855, to indicate that the CAASPP state testing window closes no later than June 30, or the weekday preceding June 30 if it does not occur on a weekday. For this reason, the 2023–24 CAASPP state testing window is scheduled to close on Friday, June 28, 2024.

The state testing window for the Initial ELPAC and Initial Alternate ELPAC opened on July 5, 2023, and is scheduled to close on June 28, 2024. The state testing for the Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC opened on February 1, 2024, and is scheduled to close on May 31, 2024. The 2023–24 state testing window start and end dates for each assessment are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. 2023–24 CAASPP and ELPAC State Testing Windows

| **Testing Window** | **Assessment(s)** |
| --- | --- |
| July 5, 2023, through June 28, 2024 | Initial ELPAC and Initial Alternate ELPAC |
| September 19, 2023, through June 28, 2024 | CAA for Science |
| January 9 through June 28, 2024 | * Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics * CAST * CAAs for ELA and mathematics * CSA |
| February 1 through May 31, 2024 | Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC |

#### **California Educator Reporting System Trainings**

To assist LEA staff in learning about CERS and how to access summative and interim assessment results, the CDE—through a contract with the Sacramento County Office of Education—has hosted a number of CERS trainings throughout the 2023–24 school year. During the summer and fall of 2023, the **Introduction to CERS** training provided an overview of the basic features of CERS. In February and March 2024, the CDE offered new trainings titled **CERS—Beyond the Basics**,which provided information on more advanced features of CERS pertaining to filters, custom reports, and rostering. Both training sets included sessions designed specifically for teachers as well as sessions designed specifically for coordinators and administrators.

In May 2024, the CDE is offering a virtual training titled **Accessing Summative Assessment Results in CERS** to assist LEA staff in preparing to access 2023–24 CAASPP and ELPAC assessment results. This training consists of two 90-minute facilitated modules, with each module focusing on a specific set of summative assessments:

* Module One focuses on Summative ELPAC, Summative Alternate ELPAC, and the CSA.
* Module Two focuses on Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics assessments, the CAST, and the CAAs for ELA, mathematics, and science.

Each module provides instructions on how to access specific summative assessment results as well as instructions on viewing and interpreting individual score reports. Additionally, the training provides insights into understanding data features that are unique to different assessments, such as Lexile® and Quantile® measures.

CERS trainings for the 2024–25 school year will begin in July 2024, with registration opening in May 2024.

Further information about upcoming CERS trainings, including how to register, can be found on the CAASPP Upcoming Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.caaspp.org/training/training-opportunities.html> and the ELPAC Upcoming Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.elpac.org/training/training-opportunities/>.

Recordings of previously offered CERS trainings, along with the presentation slides, are available on the CAASPP Asynchronous Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.caaspp.org/training/training-opportunities-async.html> and on the ELPAC Asynchronous Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.elpac.org/training/training-opportunities-async/>.

#### **2024–25 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series**

On behalf of the CDE, ETS and WestEd will be offering the Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series, a key opportunity for teachers and other LEA staff to learn how to leverage the interim and formative components of the California’s comprehensive system of assessments to inform teaching and learning. The Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series will begin in July 2024 and continue with sessions through September 2024.

As during previous years, this training series will consist of three modules, each with a unique focus:

* Module One will focus on the purposes of different types of assessment, including formative assessment and resources such as Tools for Teachers and how they work together to support learning.
* Module Two will focus on how all interim assessments—Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics, CAST, and ELPAC—and their results can be used for classroom application.
* Module Three will focus on how conducting hand scoring for all interim assessments—Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics, CAST, and ELPAC—can help educators analyze interim assessment written responses, understand expectations, and determine next steps to support learning.

Each module is approximately three hours in length and is designed to be independent of the others. Therefore, understanding the content of one module is not dependent on participation in another. Educators can customize their participation on the basis of the area(s) in which they want further professional learning. All modules will be offered multiple times via live online trainings.

Further information about the training and where to register can be found on the CAASPP Upcoming Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.caaspp.org/training/training-opportunities.html> and ELPAC Upcoming Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.elpac.org/training/training-opportunities/>. After the modules are offered, a recording of each module, along with the presentation slides, will be posted on the CAASPP Asynchronous Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.caaspp.org/training/training-opportunities-async.html> and ELPAC Asynchronous Training Opportunities web page at <https://www.elpac.org/training/training-opportunities-async/>.

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

In May 2023, the CDE approved the proposed 2022–23 apportionment rates for the CAASPP and ELPAC and provided information about CERS and Interim and Formative Assessment training (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/may23item04.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)
* Attachment 2: Proposed 2023–24 per-Pupil Apportionment Rates (2 pages)
* Attachment 3: Estimated 2023–24 Apportionment Costs (2 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), has 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 March through April 2024.

**Table 1. Trainings**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3/5 | Virtual | 52 | California Educator Reporting System (CERS)—Beyond the Basics for Teachers  Hosted by SCOE, this training is for educators who use CERS and have students rostered in the system, or other CERS users. The topics covered in this training are intermediate and advanced CERS features, including customizing groups in CERS, using advanced filters, and reviewing the information available when viewing interim assessment results. |
| 3/5 | Virtual | 206 | CERS—Beyond the Basics for Coordinators and Administrators  Hosted by SCOE, this training is for educators who use CERS and have students rostered in the system, or other CERS users. The topics covered in this training are intermediate and advanced CERS features, including making custom reports, completing advanced rostering, and tips for providing local CERS training. |
| 3/12 | Virtual | 274 | 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. |
| 3/14 | Virtual | 130 | CERS—Beyond the Basics for Coordinators and Administrators  Hosted by SCOE, this training is for educators who use CERS and have students rostered in the system, or other CERS users. The topics covered in this training are intermediate and advanced CERS features, including making custom reports, completing advanced rostering, and tips for providing local CERS training. |
| 4/9 | Virtual | 450 | 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. |
| 4/25 | Virtual | 250 | New Coordinator Training #5—Preparing to Receive Scores  Hosted by SCOE, this training provides participants with information on completion reports and how to prepare to receive assessment results. |

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

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3/5, 3/19, 3/26 | Virtual | 20 | 2024 California Spanish Assessment (CSA) Item Review Meetings (IRMs)  Participants will review items for issues related to content, bias, and sensitivity that may affect the performance of particular groups of students. |
| 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25 | Virtual | 12 | CSA Speaking Range Finding Meetings (Track One)  Participants will score Speaking student samples and identify anchor responses to be used in the scoring of the new CSA Speaking field test items. |
| 3/12, 3/18 3/20, 3/25, 3/27, 3/28, 3/29 | Virtual | 10 | ELPAC Writing Range Finding Meetings (Kindergarten through Grade Twelve)  Participants will score Writing student samples and identify anchor and training responses to be used in the scoring of the written constructed-response field test items. |
| 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30 | Virtual | 20 | CSA Speaking Range Finding Meetings (Track Two)  Participants will score Speaking student samples and identify anchor and training responses to be used in the scoring of the written constructed-response field test items. |
| 3/26, 3/27, 4/2, 4/3 | Virtual | 11 | IRM for Grade Five  The IRM allows participants to provide feedback on newly developed items to be field tested on the next California Science Test (CAST) administration. Participants either Accept, Accept with Revisions, or Reject each item. Through facilitated discussions, participants are encouraged to add actionable feedback based on their expertise to improve items so they will be field test ready. CDE reconciles all educator feedback with ETS following each IRM. |
| 4/2, 4/3, 4/4 | Virtual | 23 | CAST Range Finding for All Grades  Science educators met virtually for a CAST Range Finding meeting to score student responses to constructed-response items and identify samples of student responses for training purposes. |
| 4/23–25 | Virtual | 20 | Alternate ELPAC IRM  Participants will review items for issues related to content, bias, and sensitivity that may affect the performance on particular groups of students. |
| 4/24 | Virtual | 10 | CSA Writing Range Finding General Kickoff  Participants will score Writing student samples and identify anchor and training responses to be used in the scoring of the new CSA Written Expression field test items. |

**Table 3. Presentations by CDE Staff**

| **Date(s)** | **Location** | **Estimated Number of Attendees** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3/6–7 | Los Angeles, CA | 1000 | All Titles Conference  The Assessment Development and Administration (ADAD) presentations include:   * Interim Assessments * Accessibility Resources * Alternate Assessments for CAASPP and ELPAC * California High School Equivalency and Proficiency Programs |
| 3/13 | Sacramento, CA | 25 | Regional Assessment Network Meeting  ADAD provided updates on program activities and developments. |
| 3/14 | Virtual | 20 | Assessment Interest Holder Meeting  ADAD provided updates on regulation changes, website redesign, student score report redesign, test security process, California Assessment Conference, and Initial ELPAC testing. |
| 4/18 | Virtual | 20 | Assessment Interest Holder Meeting  ADAD provided updates on CAASPP regulation changes, expected results release, Competitive Grants for State Assessments, transitional kindergarten ELPAC data, initial ELPAC and initial alternate ELPAC testing, and the reclassification efforts using ELPAC results. |

# Proposed 2023–24 per-Pupil Apportionment Rates

The California Department of Education recommends that the California State Board of Education approve the proposed 2023–24 per-pupil apportionment rates, contingent on the availability of an appropriation for this purpose. These rates are for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), as shown in Table 1, and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), as shown in Table 2.

## Table 1. Proposed 2023–24 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress per-Pupil Apportionment Rates

| **CAASPP Assessment** | **Proposed** **per-Pupil Apportionment Rate** |
| --- | --- |
| Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and/or Mathematics | $4.00 |
| California Science Test | $2.00 |
| California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and/or Mathematics | $5.00 |
| CAA for Science | $5.00 |
| California Spanish Assessment | $5.00 |
| Grade two diagnostic assessments for ELA and/or mathematics | $2.52 |
| Students not tested due to a medical emergency or parent/guardian exemptions | $1.00 |

## Table 2. Proposed 2023–24 English Language Proficiency Assessments for California per-Pupil Apportionment Rates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ELPAC Assessments** | **Proposed** **per-Pupil Apportionment Rate** |
| Initial, kindergarten through grade two (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 |
| Initial, grades three through twelve | $5.00 |
| Initial Alternate ELPAC, kindergarten through grade twelve (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 |
| Initial Rotating Score Validation Process, kindergarten through grade twelve | $0.50 |
| Summative, kindergarten through grade two (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 |
| Summative, grades three through twelve | $5.00 |
| Summative Alternate ELPAC, kindergarten through grade twelve (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 |

# Estimated 2023–24 Apportionment Costs

Tables 1 and 2 provide estimated 2023–24 apportionment costs for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), respectively, if the California State Board of Education elects to approve the California Department of Education’s recommended per-pupil apportionment rates.

## Table 1. Proposed 2023–24 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress per-Pupil Apportionment Rates, Estimated Pupil Population, and Estimated Apportionment Costs

| **Assessment** | **Proposed**  **per-Pupil**  **Rate** | **Estimated 2023–24 Pupil Population** | **Estimated Apportionment Cost** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and/or Mathematics | $4.00 | 3,000,000 | $12,000,000 |
| California Science Test | $2.00 | 1,330,000 | $2,660,000 |
| California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and/or Mathematics | $5.00 | 36,000 | $180,000 |
| CAA for Science | $5.00 | 15,000 | $75,000 |
| California Spanish Assessment | $5.00 | 56,000 | $280,000 |
| Grade two diagnostic assessments for ELA and/or mathematics | $2.52 | 425,000 | $1,071,000 |
| Students not tested due to a medical emergency or parent/guardian exemptions | $1.00 | 30,000 | $30,000 |
| **Total:** | – | – | **$16,296,000** |

## Table 2. Proposed 2023–24 English Language Proficiency Assessments for California per-Pupil Apportionment Rates, Estimated Pupil Population, and Estimated Apportionment Costs

| **ELPAC Assessments** | **Proposed** **per-Pupil**  **Rate** | **Estimated 2023–24 Pupil Population** | **Estimated Apportionment Cost** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Initial, kindergarten through grade two (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 | 157,000 | $863,500 |
| Initial, grades three through twelve | $5.00 | 65,000 | $325,000 |
| Initial Alternate ELPAC, kindergarten through grade twelve (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 | 1,000 | $5,500 |
| Initial Rotating Score Validation Process, kindergarten through grade twelve | $0.50 | 16,000 | $8,000 |
| Summative, kindergarten through grade two (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 | 342,000 | $1,881,000 |
| Summative, grades three through twelve | $5.00 | 711,000 | $3,555,000 |
| Summative Alternate ELPAC, kindergarten through grade twelve (one-on-one administration) | $5.50 | 18,000 | $99,000 |
| **Total:** | – | – | **$6,737,000** |