California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 13, 2025

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress: Proposed Revision to the Student Score Reports.

## Summary of Key Issues

This memorandum provides an update on the proposed Student Score Reports (SSRs) for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)—California Science Test (CAST), Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics, and California Spanish Assessment (CSA).

## Background

In March 2025, the California State Board of Education (SBE) approved revisions to the reporting achievement level descriptors (ALDs) and labels for the CAST and Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and Mathematics. In May 2025, the SBE approved one additional technical edit to the Level 1 reporting ALD for the CAST and Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and Mathematics. Further information about the approved revisions to the reporting ALDs and levels can be found in the March 2025 SBE Agenda Item 04 at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr25/documents/mar25item04.docx> and in the May 2025 SBE Agenda Item 03 at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr25/documents/may25item03rev.docx>.

To reflect the changes made to the revised ALDs, the California Department of Education will recommend revisions to the CAASPP SSRs for ELA, mathematics, and science at the September 2025 SBE meeting. The proposed changes include the following:

**Page 1, “What Do the Scores Mean?”**

* The second sentence in the first paragraph has been revised to say “There are four different achievement levels that describe students’ grade-level knowledge and skills:”
* The achievement levels have been revised to “Level 4: Advanced,” “Level 3: Proficient,” “Level 2: Developing,” and “Level 1: Minimal.”
* The second and third paragraphs have been replaced with “In addition, there is more detailed information about student performance in specific areas, which is reported as one of three categories:"
* The performance levels have been revised to “Above Proficient,” “At or Near Proficient,” and “Below Proficient” to reference the new Level 3 label.

**Pages 2 and 3, “[Student]’s Overall Score”**

* The dotted line separating Level 2 and Level 3 in the vertical score charts has been removed.
* The conditional text in the blue box above the overall achievement level graphic has been revised to remove references to the standard.
* The sentence “A score of XXXX or higher meets the grade XX standard.” has been removed from the paragraph below the overall achievement level graphic.

In September 2023, the SBE approved the CSA SSRs, which can be found in the September 2023 SBE Agenda Item 03 at [https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/sep23item03.docx](https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/sep23item03.docx.). In preparation for the CSA redesign, focus groups, which included parents/guardians and educators, were held in May 2025. The CAASPP and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Technical Advisory Group and assessment interest holder members were also consulted in early June 2025.

In general, focus group participants, interest holders, and technical experts appreciated the cleaner layout, the domain icons, and score history information. They noted that the new CSASSR resembled other California assessment reports, which aided comprehension.

For consistency, the proposed CSA SSR reporting components have been redesigned to align with other CAASPP SSRs, where applicable. Additionally, with the inclusion of Speaking at the high school grade span, similar graphics used for the Summative ELPAC composite scores have been implemented on the CSA SSR. The updated CSA SSR will also be brought to the September 2025 SBE meeting for approval. Sample proposed revised SSRs are included in Attachment 1.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: Sample Proposed Student Score Report for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (10 pages)