The California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics are part of California’s system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the CAAs for ELA and mathematics are an annual measure of what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards. Known as the Core Content Connectors, these standards are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics.

The purpose of the CAAs for ELA and mathematics is to assess student knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy and mathematics and to help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills so students get the support they need.

Students are eligible to take the CAA only if it is indicated in their active individualized education program (IEP).

The CAAs for ELA and mathematics will be administered to all eligible students in grades three through eight and grade eleven.

The CAAs are administered one-on-one by a trained test examiner who is familiar with the student and his or her needs.

The CAAs are computer-based and are stage-adaptive, adjusting the level of difficulty to the student’s performance at selected stages within the test. Student results are reported as one of three performance levels.

The CAAs for ELA and mathematics will be administered during the school’s selected testing window. Most schools will test between the middle of March and the middle of May.

For additional information visit the California Department of Education CAA web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp.