The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is part of California’s system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

The CAA for Science is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and measures what students know and can do in science. This assessment is aligned with alternate science standards, called the Science Core Content Connectors, which are drawn from the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).

The purpose of the CAA for Science is to measure what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards.

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

Eligible students take the CAA for Science in grades five and eight and one time in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve). The California Department of Education recommends testing high school students when they are enrolled in their last science course. High schools have the option to test any or all students in grades ten or eleven, as long as all students have been tested by grade twelve.

The CAA for Science is a computer-based assessment and is administered one-on-one by a trained test examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs.

The test consists of four embedded performance tasks. Each embedded performance task consists of a collection of activities and questions, which are to be administered after related science concepts are taught to the students. Teachers determine the best time to administer the performance tasks throughout the school year.

The CAA for Science is available for administration from September through the last day of instruction.

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