

Assessment Fact Sheet

CAST Interim Assessments



What are interim assessments?

The California Science Test (CAST) Interim Assessments are part of California's system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The CAST Interim Assessments are optional tests that measure what students know and can do using the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).

The interim assessments are versatile and can be administered to students in either a standardized (e.g., benchmark) or nonstandardized (e.g., formative) manner, or used by school and district staff for professional development. There are nine CAST Interim Assessments available for use. The CAST Interim Assessment items are from the same item bank as the CAST Summative Assessments. Each CAST Interim Assessment contains 13–16 items.



Why are interim assessments given?

The purpose of the CAST Interim Assessments is to provide educators with results they can use to support teaching and learning. While the interim assessments provide meaningful information for gauging student progress toward mastery of the science practices, ideas, and concepts, they are not designed to be predictive of summative outcomes.



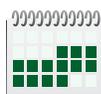
Who takes interim assessments?

Although developed for students in grades three through eight and high school, the CAST Interim Assessments can be administered to students at any grade level (i.e., kindergarten through grade twelve).



How are interim assessments given?

The CAST Interim Assessments are fixed-form, computer-based tests. Every CAST Interim Assessment contains a constructed response item that requires hand scoring. All hand scoring must be completed locally by school or district staff.



When are interim assessments given?

The CAST Interim Assessments are available for use at any time during the year. The timing and frequency of interim assessment use are locally determined.

