



Lakeside School
Lakeside Union School District

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each spring, most students in California participate in the statewide testing program, which is the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System. The tests in the CAASPP System provide information to teachers, parents/guardians, and students about students' progress and readiness for college and career. In grades three through eight and grade eleven, most students take the Smarter Balanced online tests for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. However, students who have a significant cognitive disability (as designated in their individualized education program) are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs). In grades five and eight, students are also tested in science.

This year, your child will take the following assessments for ELA and mathematics:

- Smarter Balanced tests for ELA and mathematics or
- CAAs for ELA and mathematics
- One of the following assessments for science :
 - California Science Test (CAST)
 - California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science

Smarter Balanced Assessments

The Smarter Balanced online tests are based on the new California Content Standards, also known as the Common Core State Standards, for mathematics and ELA. Parents are able to compare results across three years and determine their children's progress in meeting California's rigorous academic standards. (Exception: Only one year of data will be reported for students in grades 3.)

The California Department of Education (CDE) has developed several resources to help students and parents understand the grade expectations of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments:

- The *Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Assessments* (in English and Spanish) are posted on the CDE's CAASPP Web page, under the Students and Parents Tab, at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>. Separate guides have been developed for each of the three grade spans tested: grades 3–5, grades 6–8, and grade 11. Each guide explains the grade-level expectations for students in ELA and mathematics and provides sample test items.
- The practice and training tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>, can help parents and students experience the type of test items that students will encounter on the

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Answers to the practice test and scoring rubrics for the performance tests are posted on the Test Administrator (TA) Resources for the Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.caaspp.org/ta-resources/practice-training.html>.

Assessments for Science

California has adopted new science standards and is administering an online pilot test for Science (CAST). Scores will not be reported. Districts and parents will receive only a participation report.

For information on the new science assessments and who is eligible for each of these science tests, please see the CDE's California Science Assessments FAQ Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/sciencefaq.asp#accordionfaq>.

For information about the content, types of questions, and other targeted resources for the science tests, please see the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

If you would like more information about the CAASPP System, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE's CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>.

If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>

Per California Education Code Section 60615, parents have the right to submit a written request to exempt their child from state testing.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact Lakeside School at 831-3503.

Thank you,

Mike McGrath
Assistant Superintendent/Principal