



Research and Evaluation
5758 West Las Positas Blvd
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Parent Notification of California Department of Education Statewide Testing in Pleasanton Unified School District

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Every year, California students take several statewide tests. When combined with other measures such as grades, class work, and teacher observations, these tests give families and teachers a more complete picture of their child's learning. You can use the results to identify where your child is doing well and where they might need more support.

Your child may be taking one or more of the following tests during this academic year: the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), and Physical Fitness Test assessments. Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the test site coordinator at their child's school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments. This exemption does **not** exist for the ELPAC or the Physical Fitness Test. We strongly encourage parents **not** to opt out of state testing – the data results are important to help us monitor and improve our school district's performance, and are included in state rankings of our district. In addition, these scores may be used or required to help your child qualify for programs such as the State Seal of Biliteracy, to exit from the English Learner program, or other purposes including CSU placement.

The state tests that will be administered this year may include:

CAASPP: Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Math

Who takes these tests? Students in grades 3–8 and grade 11.

What is the test format? The Smarter Balanced assessments are computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The California Common Core State Standards.

CAASPP: California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) for ELA and Math

Who takes these tests? Students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 whose individualized education program (IEP) identifies the use of alternate assessments.

What is the test format? The CAAs for ELA and math are computer-based tests that are administered one-on-one by a test examiner who is familiar with the student.

Which standards are tested? The California Common Core State Standards through the Core Content Connectors.

CAASPP: California Science Test (CAST)

Who takes the test? Students take the CAST in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, either in grade 10, 11, or 12.

What is the test format? The CAST is computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The California Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

CAASPP: California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science

Who takes the test? Students whose IEP identifies the use of an alternate assessment take the CAA for Science in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, in grade 11 or 12.

What is the test format? The CAA for Science is a series of four performance tasks that can be administered throughout the year as the content is taught.

Which standards are tested? Alternate achievement standards derived from the NGSS.

CAASPP: California Spanish Assessment (CSA)

Who takes the test? The CSA is an optional test for students in grades 3–12 that tests their Spanish reading, listening, and writing mechanics.

What is the test format? The CSA is computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The California Common Core State Standards en Español.

ELPAC: English Language Proficiency Assessment in California

Who takes the test? Students who have a home language survey that lists a language other than English will take the Initial test, which identifies students as an English Learner student or as initially fluent in English. Students who are classified as English Learner students will take the Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English.

What is the test format? Both the Initial and Summative ELPAC are computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The 2012 California English Language Development Standards.

Alternate ELPAC

Who takes the test? Students whose IEP identifies the use of an alternate assessment and who have a home language survey that lists a language other than English will take the Alternate Initial ELPAC, which identifies students as an English learner student or as initially fluent in English. Students who are classified as English learner students will take the Alternate Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English.

What is the test format? Both the Alternate Initial and Alternate Summative ELPAC are computer-based.

Which standards are tested? Alternate achievement standards derived from the 2012 California English Language Development Standards.



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Physical Fitness Test

Who takes the test? Students in grades 5, 7, and 9.

What is the test format? The test consists of five performance components: aerobic capacity, abdominal strength, trunk strength, upper body strength, and flexibility.

Which standards are tested? The Healthy Fitness Zones, which are established through the FITNESSGRAM®.

The Initial ELPAC and the CAA for Science may be administered throughout the school year. The Summative ELPAC, the CAASPP assessments, and the PFT will be administered from February through the end of the school year.

Please contact your school's administrator in charge of state testing with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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