

Smarter Balanced Resources

2014 Matrix identifies and describes the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available for all California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ai>

Administration of the CAASPP System Tests—Training Videos and Resources site explains all critical aspects of the Smarter Balanced Assessments, including the Individual Student Assessment Profile (ISAAP) tool. http://www.californiatac.org/rsc/videos/archived-webcast_ISAAP-overview-and-instructions.html and <http://caaspp.org/training/caaspp/index.html>

CAASPP Accessibility Support Request Form is for local education agency (LEA) CAASPP coordinators to submit to the California Department of Education (CDE) when they determine that a student needs to use a support that he or she regularly uses in the classroom, but that is not listed on the matrix. <http://californiatac.org/administration/forms/>

Accessibility Guide for Classroom Activities provides teachers with the accessibility options that may be implemented during a classroom activity for students with disabilities and English language learners in order to give them appropriate access to the information included in the activity. <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Accessibility-Guide-for-Classroom-Activities-Final.pdf>

Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader will assist state staff, test administrators, educators, and scribes in ensuring the “read aloud” resource is standardized and contributes to valid measures of students’ college and career readiness. The read aloud resource should be used when a student cannot access text-to-speech, an embedded resource available on the Smarter Balanced assessment. <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Read-Aloud-Guidelines.pdf>

The Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile (ISAAP) Tool is designed to help educators select the designated supports and accommodations that each student needs in order to access the Smarter Balanced assessments. Find the ISAAP Tool at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/support-for-under-represented-students/>. For a video overview of the ISAAP Tool, go to http://www.californiatac.org/rsc/videos/archived-webcast_ISAAP-overview-and-instructions.html.

Scribing Protocol for Smarter Balanced Assessments will assist state staff, test administrators, educators, and scribes in ensuring scribing is standardized and contributes to valid measures of students’ college and career readiness. <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Scribing-Protocol.pdf>

Smarter Balanced Assessment Accommodations and Accessibility Resources for all manner of Smarter Balanced testing supports are at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/support-for-under-represented-students/>.

Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines is a guide for LEAs to help them provide equal access for all students participating in the Field Test. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/access.asp>

Technology Requirements for Text-To-Braille provides information about the technology requirements for administering the field test to students who will use the braille accommodation. <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Technology-Requirements-for-Text-to-Braille.pdf>



Alternate Assessment Resources

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) replaces the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) in English language arts and mathematics but not in science. The CAPA will remain the alternate science assessment for the time being. The information below was provided by the Assessment, Development, and Administration Division of the California Department of Education.

Field Testing Windows. The CAA field test in ELA and mathematics for all eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities will be administered April 15 through June 10, 2015. This window is for the CAA 2015 field test administration only. All testing, including makeup testing, must be completed during this window.

Field Test Specifications

Items. CAA field test items are aligned with the California Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and based on the Core Content Connectors. The field test will consist of approximately 15 items.

Length of Time. The field test will take approximately 45 to 90 minutes to administer for each content area.

Testing Format. Students will take the test on computers. A paper and pencil version of the field test will not be available.

Levels of Complexity. The field test was developed with three levels of complexity. Students will experience items at all levels of complexity during the field test so the test designers can gather data on how the items perform across the range of student academic performance. As with all tests, some students may perform better on some items than others because some items will be more difficult.

Student-level data. Because this is a field test that is designed to gather item-level data, no student or school-level results will be provided.

Test accommodations. Accommodations noted in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan and that are regularly used during instruction and for state testing may be used during the CAA field test.

These accommodations, as appropriate for any pupil taking the CAA, will be included through the TOMS registration system (see below), as the CAA field test will be delivered on the same technology platform as Smarter Balanced assessments. However, there will not be a braille version of the CAA field test or support for text-to-speech.

Alternate Assessment Field Test Registration.

Local educational agencies (LEAs) currently have the ability to upload files to the Test Operations Management System (TOMS), indicating which students in grades 3–8, and grade 11 should be enrolled for the CAA field test in ELA and mathematics. All eligible students who would have taken the CAPA are required to participate in the CAA field test.

Field Test Specifications.

For more information about the alternate assessment field test, go to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>.

Technology Requirements.

The CAA field test is a computer-based assessment; the technology requirements are the same as those for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Information on these specific technology requirements can be found on the Web at <http://caaspp.org/rsc/pdfs/CAASPP.tech-specs-manual.2015.pdf>.

Training Webcast.

The CDE and its contractor, Educational Testing Service, will host a live training Webcast for the CAA field test on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 1 PM. Since the CAA is a new computer-based assessment, the CDE encourages all test coordinators and test administrators to view the webcast in preparation for test administration. Prospective viewers can join the “live” presentation on the ETS California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Web site, <http://caaspp.org/training/index.html>, where the webcast will then be archived for future viewing and training use.

Questions About the CAA.

Any questions about the CAA should be directed to the English Language Proficiency and Alternate Assessments office by phone at 916-319-0784 or by e-mail at alternateassessment@ca.gov.