2020–21 Spring Administration Flexibility Guidelines



The California State Board of Education approved the plan that allows local educational agencies (LEAs) to use the most viable option for assessment in their local context for the 2020–21 school year. LEAs may use either of the following to meet testing requirements for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and Mathematics

- Aligned with the California Common Core State Standards (CA CCSS) for ELA and mathematics
- Available to all eligible students in grades 3–8, and grade 11
- Administered consistent with the Online Test Administration Manual for California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

California Department of Education (CDE) Reporting

- Provide electronic Individual Student Score Reports for parents/guardians
- Provide individual score reports for educators in the California Educator Reporting System
- Provide student data file extract for LEAs
- Provide aggregated reports on CDE public reporting website by state, county, district, school levels as well as disaggregated by student group

Diagnostic, Benchmark, or Interim Assessments for ELA and Mathematics

- Must be aligned with CA CCSS for ELA and mathematics
- Must be available to students in grades 3–8, and grade 11
- Must be uniformly administered across a grade, grade span, school, or district to all eligible students

LEA Reporting

- Provide individual student results that can be reported to parents/guardians
- Provide individual student results to educators
- Required to publicly report for each assessment, in the School Accountability Report Card and the Local Educational Agency Report Card, the performance of students disaggregated by student group, and the number and percentage of students tested and not tested

The California Alternate Assessments (CAAs) in ELA, mathematics, and science will continue to be available for any LEA use with eligible students for in person test administration when safe to do so with health and safety guidelines in place.

The California Science Test and the California Spanish Assessment will continue to be available for any LEA to use.

The Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) must be administered to all English learners.

Note: Using the CAASPP and ELPAC assessments allows students to access universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations as needed. In addition, students in grade 11 will be able to submit their ELA and mathematics scores for the California State University Early Assessment Program.



March 2021