

CAASPP System Assessments 2015–16
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments
Grade Eleven
Parent and Guardian Notification Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each spring, most students in California participate in the statewide testing program, 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. This year, your child will take the following CAASPP tests:

- Smarter Balanced test for mathematics
- Smarter Balanced test for English language arts/literacy (ELA)

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. For eleventh graders, these tests will have a direct impact on the California State University's (CSU's) Early Assessment Program (EAP). The CSU and participating California community colleges will use student results from the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments as a student's EAP status in English and mathematics:

- Students who score at the highest performance level ("Standard Exceeded") are considered *ready* for college-level coursework in English and/or mathematics and exempt from taking the CSU English Placement Test (EPT) and/or Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) exam.
- Students who score at the "Standard Met" performance level are considered *conditionally ready* for college-level coursework in English and/or mathematics and exempt from taking the CSU English Placement Test (EPT) and/or Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) exam. However, they must take an approved English and/or mathematics course in twelfth grade and receive a grade of "C" or better. Students that do not meet the conditional requirement will need to participate in the CSU's Early Start Program, unless exemption was met through another pathway.
- Students who score at the "Standard Nearly Met" performance level are considered *not yet ready* for college-level coursework in English and/or mathematics and will need additional preparation in the twelfth grade. They will also be required to take the CSU English Placement Test (EPT) and/or Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) exam unless they meet the exemption criteria through another pathway.
- Students who score at the "Standard Not Met" performance level are considered *not ready* for college-level work in English and/or mathematics. They will need substantial improvement to demonstrate knowledge and skills needed for success in entry-level credit-bearing college coursework after high school.

For more information, please see the CSU's Early Assessment Program Web page, at <http://www.csusuccess.org/caaspp>.

Students wishing to inform the CSU and participating community colleges of their EAP status may submit their CAASPP results by selecting the release button at the end of each CAASPP exam (i.e., for both the ELA and mathematics assessments). For more information, please see the California Department of Education's (CDE's) Early Assessment Program Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/g/hs/eapindex.asp>.

The CDE has developed several resources to help parents and students 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>.

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>. Pursuant to Education Code 60615 and 5 CCR Section 852(b), this letter also serves as notice that parents or guardians may exempt their child from this testing by submitting an annual written request to the testing coordinator or administrator at your child's school site. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact the testing coordinator or administrator at your child's school site.