



Long Beach Unified School District
1515 Hughes Way
Long Beach, CA 90810
(562) 997-8000

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each year, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

This spring, your child will take the following test(s), depending on their grade level:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics (grades 3 - 8, and 11)
- California Science Test (CAST) (grades 5, 8 and 12)

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the CAST are online tests that measure what your student knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support needed to be successful in school.

Results from the CAASPP assessments will be used, along with other available data, for school and program placement of students, to determine the impact of selected curriculum and programs, and to make other instructional plans at your child's school. As the parent or guardian, you have the option of annually excusing your child from any part of the CAASPP. If you wish to excuse your child, please submit your request in writing to your child's school so that it can be kept on file with the school district. [Education Code 60615].

You are an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the test you can:

- Talk about the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher have high expectations and are both there to help, every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments or the CAST, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

You also can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

For information on specific dates and times when your child will take the test in each subject, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

Principal