



**CAASPP System Assessments 2018-19
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and California Science Test
Grades Three through Eight
Parent and Guardian Notification Letter**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

California's academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate ready for college and a career. One way we measure their progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. Students across California in grades 3–8 and high school take these assessments each spring. These tests were created specifically to gauge each student's performance in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. These tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems.

Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards. Given online, the tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more precise measurement of individual skills.

This year, your child will take the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics- 3rd- 8th Grade
- California Science Assessment- 5th and 8th Grade

Third Grade- May 6-10
Fourth Grade- May 13- 17
Fifth Grade- May 6- 17
Sixth Grade- May 6- 22
Seventh Grade- May 6- 22
Eighth Grade- May 6- 25

Attendance during State testing is important. Please look at the dates above to ensure your child will be at school during his/her testing dates.

Smarter Balanced Assessments

The Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics tests reflect California's rigorous academic standards and allow students to demonstrate analytical writing and critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of facts.

To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Another great resource are 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>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Katie Buffum at katie.buffum@smusd.org.

Steven M. Baum

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