



REDDING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academic Excellence Since 1873



Tradition of Excellence Since 1853

SHASTA UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT



IGO-ONO- PLATINA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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RICK FAUSS, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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.

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated in their individualized education program (IEP), are eligible to take alternate assessments.

This year, your child will take one of the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics – grades 3-8
- The California Alternate Assessments (CAAs)
- The California Science Test – Pilot Test – for grades 5 & 8
- CAA for Science – Pilot Test – for grades 5 & 8, and 10, 11 or 12

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. In 2017, parents will be able to compare results across **three years** (2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17) to determine their child's progress in meeting the standards. (Exceptions: only two years of data will be reported for students in grade 4, and only one year of data will be reported for students in grade 3).

California Science Test – Pilot Test

California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers – asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. This year your child will participate in the tryout of test items for this future assessment. While this tryout will not provide scores for your child, it is an important first step in developing an assessment that will fairly and accurately measure how students are achieving on the new science standards.

California Alternate Assessments (CAAs)

Students in grade 3-8 and grade 11 who have an IEP that designates the use of an alternate assessment are eligible to take the CAAs in ELA and mathematics. The goal of the CAAs is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities attain increasingly higher achievement levels and leave high school ready for academic or career options. The test items are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics and are based on the Core Content Connectors, which were developed with three tiers of complexity.

The New Millennium Partnership

CAA for Science – Pilot Test

California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers – asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated in their IEP, are eligible to take the CAA for Science.

This year your child will participate in the tryout of test items for the CAA for Science. While this tryout will not provide scores for your child, it is an important first step in developing an assessment that will fairly and accurately measure how students are achieving on the new science standards.

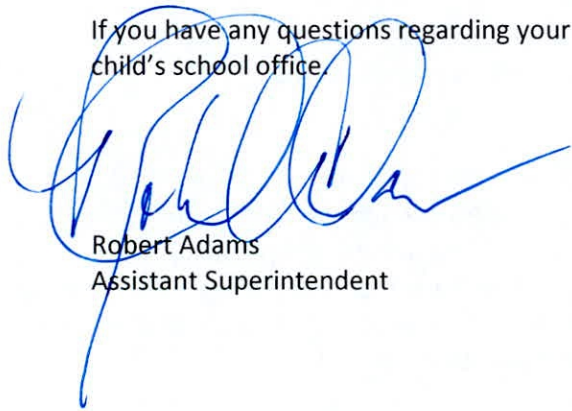
To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Another great resource are the Practice and Training tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balance 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.

For additional information about the new science tests and sample questions, please visit CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact your child's school office.



Robert Adams
Assistant Superintendent