



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Each spring, schools across California participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress program, also known as CAASPP.

This year, your student will participate in the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts and mathematics (SBAC), the California Alternate Assessments (CAA), and, depending on their grade level, the pilot administration of the California Science Tests (CAST).

These assessments help school districts and the state monitor student progress under the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which support more rigorous instruction and increased expectations for students.

If you have any questions about your student’s participation in CAASPP, or would like to request that your student be exempted from one or more CAASPP assessments, please submit a written request to your student’s school specifying which assessments. (Note that you need to submit this request annually. Requests from previous years do not carry over.)

It’s important to keep in mind that performance on these assessments is not the only source of information about your student’s progress in school. You should also review classroom work, grades, teacher evaluations, and other test results in order to get a more complete picture.

As part of the California Code of Regulations that relate to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) program, San José Unified School District is required to notify families of their student’s participation in the CAASPP tests as well as to inform you of your right to exempt your student from taking the CAASPP tests. This letter is meant to fulfill that requirement.

Please feel free to contact your student’s school principal with any questions about requesting an exemption.

Sincerely,

Emalie McGinnis  
Director of Technology & Data Services  
San José Unified School District