



Education Division  
Assessment and Evaluation

July 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This spring, your student participated in the 2016 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the new assessment system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP includes computer-adaptive tests for English language arts/literacy and mathematics for students in grades seven, eight and eleven, as well as paper-based tests in science for students in grades eight and ten.

These new exams are part of California's comprehensive plan for supporting high-quality learning at every school. They are based on California's new, more challenging academic standards, which are designed to help all students graduate ready for college and to pursue a career.

The computer-adaptive tests include a wider variety of questions than the multiple-choice tests they replaced, requiring students to explain how they solve problems, think critically, and write analytically. We believe that these skills will help our students as they encounter 21<sup>st</sup> century learning opportunities and become tomorrow's leaders, workers and citizens.

The student score report enclosed with this letter shows your child's achievement on these new tests. Please take a few moments to review it. For students in grades seven, eight, and eleven an overall score is provided for each subject, as well as information about how your student performed in different skill areas associated with English language arts/literacy and mathematics. We have provided parent information guides to help breakdown each area in the score report and the California Department of Education has created a Test Score Guide Web page to help parents/guardians and students understand their results:  
<http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>

The results of these assessments provide one piece of information about student progress. Our schools will be looking at these results to identify strengths and areas of needed improvement in their academic program, as well to facilitate conversations between parents/guardians and teachers about student performance. We invite you to take an active part in those discussions. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please call your child's school.

**For students in grades 8, and 10:** To meet federal test requirements in 2016, this was the last year California administered the California Standards Test (CST), the California Modified Assessment (CMA), and the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) for Science to all students in grades eight, and ten. These tests were not an accurate measure of the curriculum and standards being taught in your child's classroom as we transitioned to the Next Generation Science Standards. If your child was administered a science test, the results appear on the student score report. New assessments based on the Next Generation Science Standards are being developed and will be piloted in the 2016-17 school year to students in grade 8 and a sample of students from grades 10, 11, and 12 in high school.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Matsuda,  
Superintendent

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