

Assessment Fact Sheet

California Alternate Assessment for Science



What Is the CAA for Science?

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is part of California's system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. The CAA for Science is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and measures what students know and can do in science. This assessment is aligned with alternate science standards, called the Science Core Content Connectors, which are aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards.



Why Is the CAA Given?

The purpose of the CAA for Science is to measure what students know and can do using alternate achievement standards.



Who Takes the CAA?

Students are eligible to take the CAA for Science only if it is indicated in their active individualized education program.

Eligible students will take the CAA for Science in grades five and eight and one time in high school (that is, grade ten, eleven, or twelve). The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends testing high school students when they are enrolled in their last science course. High schools have the option to test any or all students in grades ten or eleven, as long as all students have been tested by the end of grade twelve.



How Is the CAA Given?

The CAA for Science is a computer-based assessment and is administered one-on-one by a trained test examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs.

The test consists of three embedded performance tasks. Each embedded performance task consists of a collection of activities and questions, which are to be administered after related science concepts are taught to the students.



When Is the CAA Given?

The CAA for Science is available for administration from September through the last day of instruction. Teachers determine the best time to administer the performance tasks throughout the school year.

