

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Update, from the California Department of Education (CDE), is a regular e-mail for K–12 educators, including testing coordinators, that focuses primarily on the Smarter Balanced assessments, which are a major component of the CAASPP system. CAASPP also includes the California Alternate Assessments and science assessments. Please forward this e-mail to any educators in your local educational agency (LEA) who would be interested in or benefit from this information.

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Summative Assessments

March 10, 2015, marked the first official day of online academic testing for California public school students. We are now into our second week of implementing the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments! LEAs whose windows are already opened are well under way with their online testing, while others are preparing for the opening of their window. In preparing for and carrying out the administration of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, we strongly encourage *CAASPP Update* readers to regularly visit the [CDE CAASPP System Web page](#) and [CAASPP Web site](#) for new and updated resources and information, including the following:

- **The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are now available** if your LEA has met the minimum instructional days in accordance with the instructional calendar provided in the Test Operations and Management System (TOMS). Test administrators (TAs) use the TA interface to set up a test session, which begins with the selection of the assessment to be administered. When creating a test session, TAs must select summative or interim assessments from the same pull-down menu; therefore, it is **critical** that TAs carefully select and not administer a summative assessment if an interim assessment is intended or vice versa. If a TA unintentionally administers a summative assessment, the result may be an invalidation of the summative assessment results. If this does occur, TAs should immediately contact their site coordinator or LEA CAASPP coordinator, who will follow up with the CDE.

Some Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Classroom Activities have been updated since their initial posting:

- “[Advertising](#),” “[Animals with Shells](#),” “[Invasive Species](#),” “[Inventions](#),” “[Monuments](#),” and “[Poetry](#)” were updated on 03/16/2015.
- “[Aztec Empire](#)” and “[Zip Line](#)” were updated on 03/06/15.
- “[How the Brain Works](#)” was reposted on 03/05/15 to correct a minor typo in the title on the first page.
- If the Activity in your Assignment PDF is “Power of Water,” the assigned classroom activity is “[Power of Water \(Effects of Water\)](#)” (updated on 03/02/15).

TAs whose LEA was assigned a classroom activity that has been updated should confirm that they are using the corrected version by checking for the updated date on the lower right hand portion of the page

- On March 9, 2015, an updated *Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines* and *Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader* were posted. These resources and many others, which are designed to assist with setting embedded and non-embedded designated supports and accommodations for students in the Test Operations Management System (TOMS), are found on the [CAASPP Web site](#) under the Test Administration tab, Instructions and Manuals.
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- To help with the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment administration of selected embedded and non-embedded designated supports for English learners, three sets of resources are posted on the [CAASPP Web site](#) under the Test Administration tab, Instructions and Manuals. These resources include the *Instructions for Using Embedded Glossaries* (for mathematics only); Smarter Balanced Glossary Student Resource Sheets, in multiple languages, for grades three through eight and grade eleven; and translated test directions for the online mathematics assessments.
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- The Early Assessment Program (EAP), which is a joint effort between the State Board of Education, the CDE, and The California State University system and participating California Community Colleges campuses, will use the 2014–15 CAASPP Smarter Balanced English–language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics achievement-level outcomes to provide students in grade eleven, their families, and their high schools with early signals about students’ readiness for college-level coursework. A letter about the EAP was sent to LEA administrators on March 3, 2015, and a letter addressed to grade eleven students is available for downloading and distribution to all grade eleven students. Links to these resources are provided on the [CDE CAASPP Summative Assessment Web page](#). The student letter is also available in Spanish.

Interim Assessments

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments consist of two distinct types of interim assessments: the interim comprehensive assessments (ICAs), which are based on the same blueprints as the summative assessments; and the interim assessment blocks (IABs), which are shorter, more focused sets of items that measure one or more assessment targets.

Blueprints for the IABs are available by grade for ELA and mathematics on the [CDE Interim Assessments Web page](#) under New Resources. Each block-level blueprint contains information about the claims, assessment targets, and depth of knowledge levels addressed by the items in that block as well as the number of items allocated to each of those categories. Teachers and other educators can use these blueprints to gain insight into the composition of the IABs in order to use the IABs more effectively in the classroom and better understand the results that are reported.