

California Science Test Field Test



WHAT IS THE CAST FIELD TEST?

The California Science Test (CAST) is part of California's state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Currently under development, the CAST will be field-tested in 2017–18 and administered operationally in 2018–19.

The CAST measures what students know and can do using the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), which focus on understanding the concepts across such scientific areas as life science, earth and space science, and physical science. These standards use disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts to help students understand how science works in the natural world.



WHY IS THE CAST GIVEN?

The purpose of the CAST is to measure what students know and can do (student achievement) and to foster science education at every grade level. In addition, the CAST is intended to help students learn the knowledge and skills they need for college and careers.

The 2017–18 CAST field test will try out newly developed items and test system functionality.



WHO TAKES THE CAST?

The 2017–18 CAST field test will be administered to all students in grades five and eight.

For grades ten, eleven, and twelve, certain students will be expected to participate on the basis of the last science course they completed.



HOW IS THE CAST GIVEN?

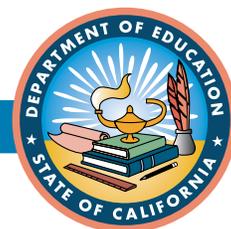
The CAST field test is a computer-based test that consists of stand-alone items and includes two or three performance tasks. These performance tasks require students to solve a series of complex problems. Testing should take approximately two hours to complete.



WHEN IS THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE TEST GIVEN?



* Until development of the test has been completed and reviewed, no student scores or aggregated results will be released.

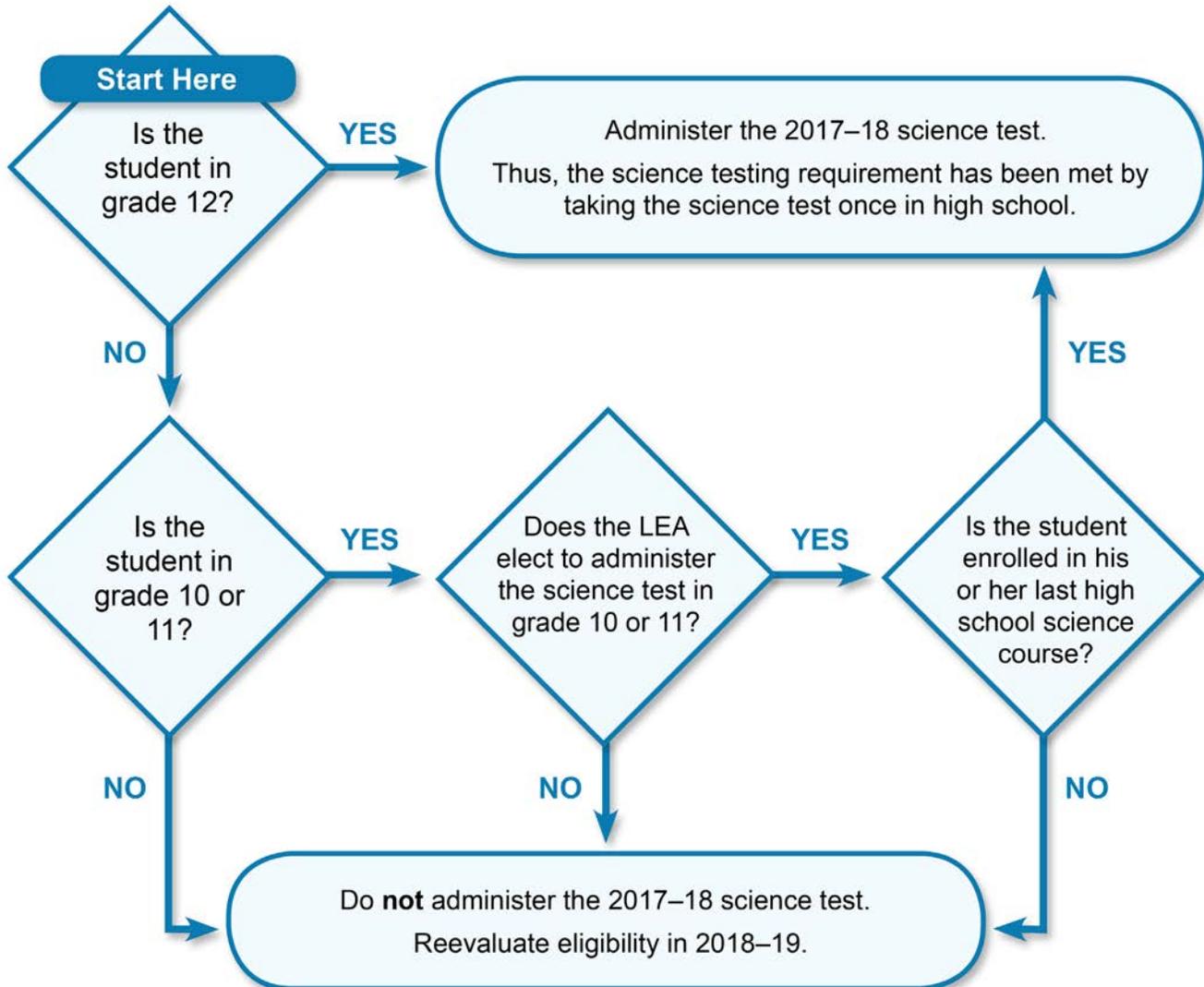




At Which Grade Level in High School Do We Administer the 2017–18 Science Tests?



The 2017–18 science tests will be administered to all eligible students in grades five and eight and once in high school, in grade ten, eleven, or twelve. The chart below illustrates how all grade twelve students must take the science test in 2017–18. Local educational agencies (LEAs) will have flexibility in deciding when to test their grade ten or eleven students.



High school students will take a science test aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards only one time.

More information about the California Science Test and California Alternate Assessment for Science can be found on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.





Available Resources

FOR THE

California Science Test Field Test

The California Science Test (CAST) field test is administered to all students in grades five and eight. Beginning in the 2017–18 school year, high school students have only one opportunity to take the CAST, in grade ten, eleven, or twelve. Participation rates will be based on students who have completed the science test requirement by grade twelve.

The following resources for the CAST field test are available on the California Department of Education CAST Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>

- **Assessment Fact Sheet**
Provides answers to general questions you might have about various aspects and objectives of the CAST field test.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castfactsheet.pdf>
- **CAST Training Test and Scoring Guide**
Provides sample CAST items for grades five and eight and high school. The scoring guide provides answers and scoring rubrics for items.
<http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>
- **Parent Guide to Understanding the California Science Test**
Provides answers to key questions, such as who takes the assessments and why, when, and how they are administered, and other questions parents and guardians might have.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/cast-pgtu.pdf>
- **Quick Reference Guide: How to Start a Training Test**
Gives step-by-step instructions for educators, parents, and students to access the training test for the CAST.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/casttrngtestguide.pdf>
- **Quick Reference Guide: How to Start a Test Session**
Gives step-by-step instructions for how to start a test session for the CAST administration.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/casttestsessionqrg.pdf>
- **Informational Video**
An eight-minute video that provides information about the California Next Generation Science Standards and the CAST field test.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/castpilotvideo.asp>
- **Science Reference Tools for Students in Grade Eight and High School**
Students can access CAST reference tools during online testing. The tools, which include a periodic table and a reference sheet of formulae and scientific constants, are made available to signal that students are not expected to memorize this information. They are not required to be used during classroom instruction and are not meant to guide instruction.
<http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/science/index.html>



The California Science Test (CAST)

The California Science Test or CAST is part of the state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP. The CAST will be field tested in 2017–18 and be operational in 2018–19.

The CAASPP System is designed to give information to teachers, students, and their families about what students know and are able to do. It also indicates whether they are on track to be ready for success in college or career when they graduate from high school.



CAST	
Who	All students in grades 5 and 8, and once in high school, depending on when they take their last science class.
What	<p>California has adopted science standards called the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS). These standards tell us what students should know and be able to do in science. The CA NGSS is designed to help students understand how science works in the natural world. They also help students learn the knowledge and skills they need for college and careers.</p> <p>The CAST is aligned with the CA NGSS. The CAST will also test the student’s ability to think critically and solve problems like scientists and engineers.</p> <p>This new assessment uses questions that bring together science content and practices. It also focuses on questions that cover more than one scientific area at a time, such as life science, earth and space science, and physical science.</p>
How	The CAST is a computer-based test that has many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test content in exciting new ways. For example, your child might be asked to write a short response, select multiple answers from a list, or drag sentences into the correct order to form an answer. Testing should take approximately two hours to complete.
When	Each school selects its own testing window. Testing can begin as early as January and continue through the last day of school. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific days and times of testing.
Why	The purpose of the CAST is to measure what students know and can do and to foster science education at every grade level.

Do students with disabilities take the CAST?

Yes, unless the student's individualized education program designates an alternate assessment.

What resources are available for students?

All students have access to a variety of tools; for example, a calculator and reference sheets containing formulas and scientific constants.

Students with disabilities have additional supports such as American Sign Language videos or Braille. All of the accessibility resources help students gain fair access to the test and do not affect the students' scores in any way.

How can I help my child get ready for the test?

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Discuss the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher have high expectations and that you are both there to help them every step of the way.
- Take a training test with your child. Training tests can be found at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.



Additional Information

More information about the CAST can be found on the California Department of Education California Science Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

Your child's teacher or principal is the best place to start if you have other questions about testing or available accessibility resources.

