



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

TITLE: 2020-21 State and National Mandated Testing Calendars

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ROUTING
LD Administration
Principals
Assistant Principals
Testing Coordinators

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Reference Guide is to provide the State and National testing calendars for the 2020-21 school year.

MAJOR CHANGES: The Initial English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) will be administered online.

INSTRUCTIONS: California school districts are required to administer mandated state and national assessments each year. Regulations for each assessment program are established by the designated governing body at the state and national level. The California Department of Education (CDE) at the state level and the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) at the national level manage the development, coordination, and implementation of the mandated testing programs through the use of various test vendors.

The testing calendars in this Reference Guide were developed using the guidelines and timeframes established by the test vendors for each testing program and the program's respective state or national governing body. School administrators are to meet with stakeholders responsible for planning the school's calendar to establish the school's testing schedule for each testing program. Schools must schedule all regular and make-up testing for each program on the dates or within the specified testing window(s) indicated in this document.

Test dates or testing windows are subject to change based on availability of testing materials, online applications, and changes in regulations governing each testing program. If a change in regulations or District policy takes effect after this Reference Guide is released, this document will be updated to reflect such change.

For paper-pencil and computer-based assessments, District and State guidelines and procedures for individual programs are included in the Administration Instructions prepared by the Student Testing Branch (STB). Administration Instructions, memoranda, and reference guides will include details regarding



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the ordering and the delivery of testing materials to schools, training requirements for teachers and coordinators, test administration guidelines and procedures, and returning materials to the District. These LAUSD publications should be used in conjunction with state manuals and Directions for Administration (DFAs) released by the test vendors for each testing program.

District publications such as reference guides and memoranda are posted in e-Library at <https://my.lausd.net/webcenter/portal/LAUSD>. Administration Instructions are posted on STB's Webpage at <http://achieve.lausd.net/testing>. State publications and manuals are posted on the CDE or test vendor websites for each testing program. Web links for different testing programs are included in the Related Resources section of this document.

For the 2020-21 school year, California and Federal regulations require the implementation of the testing programs outlined below. Specific information about each testing program is provided in the sections below. Testing windows for each program are provided in Attachment A of this document.

I. California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

CAASPP is California's statewide student assessment system and consists of seven computer-based assessments. For the 2020-21 school year, the CAASPP system encompasses the following assessments:

- Smarter Balanced (SB) Summative Assessments for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- California Alternate Assessments (CAA) for ELA, Mathematics, and Science
- California Science Test (CAST)
- California Spanish Assessment (CSA)

Each year, schools are responsible for notifying parents/guardians about their student(s) participation in the CAASPP system and of their option to excuse their student(s) from testing. Parent/guardians who wish to exclude their student(s) from any or all parts of CAASPP tests must submit to the school a written request. In winter 2021, parent notification letter templates for notifying parents of statewide testing will be posted on STB's webpage at <http://achieve.lausd.net/testing>. Because the CAA for science is administered in fall and spring, parent notification letter templates will be available in early fall 2020.

For Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, the testing window begins when 66 percent of the school's annual instructional days have been completed, and testing may continue up to and including the last day



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of instruction. The District may select its own testing window within the state-determined dates.

- Smarter Balanced (SB) Summative Assessments

Student Participation: The SB Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics are administered to students in grades 3-8 and grade 11. All students at the designated grade levels are required to participate with the following exceptions:

- Students who participate in the CAA as indicated on their Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- ELA only—English Learners (EL) who are in their first 12 months of attending a school in the United States as of April 15 of the previous year.

Content and Format: Each test consists of two sections, a Performance Task (PT) and a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), also known as Non-PT. The CAT for ELA and math include a range of item types such as selected response, constructed response, tables, fill-in, graphing, etc. The PTs are extended activities that measure a student's ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards.

- Early Assessment Program (EAP)

Students automatically participate in the EAP when they complete the grade eleven SB Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics. ELA and mathematics scores serve as an indicator of readiness for college-level coursework in English and mathematics and are used by the California State University (CSU) and participating California Community Colleges (CCCs) to determine EAP status.

- California Alternate Assessment (CAA)

Student Participation: The CAA for ELA and mathematics is administered to eligible students with disabilities in grades 3-8 and grade 11. The CAA is for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments even with accessibility supports and accommodations, and whose IEP indicates assessment with an alternate test. If CAA is not indicated in the IEP, the student will take the appropriate Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.

Content and Format: The CAAs are based on alternate achievement standards aligned with the California State Standards in English and



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mathematics. These tests are computer-based and are administered one on one by a test examiner.

- CAA for Science

The CAA for science is for students in an alternate curriculum whose IEP indicates the use of an alternate assessment. The test is comprised of four embedded performance tasks. Each performance task is available as a separate test in the test delivery system, enabling the test examiner to administer it in any order and at any time after a student has been taught the content related to the specific performance task. For this reason, the CAA for science testing window is different than the testing window for other CAASPP tests. The CAA for science testing window opens in early fall and closes on the last day of school.

Student Participation: Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 whose IEPs indicate the use of an alternate assessment are required to participate in CAA for science. Eligible grade 12 students who have not taken the CAA for science in high school are required to participate. Students repeating grade twelve are not eligible to test.

- California Science Tests (CAST)

Student Participation: Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 are required to participate in CAST. Grade 12 students who have not taken CAST in high school are required to participate. However, students repeating grade twelve are not eligible to test. All students in the designated grade levels are required to participate. The only exception is for students who participate in the CAA for science as indicated on their IEP.

Content and Format: The CAST is a computer-based test that consists of stand-alone questions as well as two or three performance tasks. Performance tasks require students to solve a series of related questions.

- California Spanish Assessment (CSA)

Student Participation: The CSA is available to students who speak Spanish as their primary language and students who are learning Spanish as an additional language. In LAUSD, the CSA is administered to students who meet one of the following two criteria:

- Students in grades 3-8 who are enrolled in a Spanish dual-language program, regardless of their language classification, and/or



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- Spanish-speaking English learners in grades 3-11 who have been enrolled in a U.S. school less than 12 months – from April 15 of the previous year.

Content and Format: The CSA is a computer-based assessment that is aligned to the California Common Core State Standards en Español. Students who meet the criteria to take the CSA will take the CSA in addition to other mandated CAASPP tests.

II. California Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

The FITNESSGRAM has been designated by the California State Board of Education as the Physical Fitness Test for students in California public schools. STB has developed an online PFT Mass Score Entry screen in MiSiS to facilitate the collection of PFT student scores from schools electronically. Schools record scores for individual students on a PFT roster, but they are not required to bubble a student data collection form for each student tested.

Student Participation: All students, including the physically handicapped, enrolled in grades 5, 7, and 9 must be tested. This includes students who are repeating a grade as well as students in alternate programs including continuation, independent study, Community Day Schools (CDS), and non-public schools. Students not enrolled in a physical education class during the testing window because of a state-approved waiver for block scheduling must still be tested. Students who are physically unable to take the entire test battery are to be given as much of the test as students' conditions permit.

Secondary schools are responsible for testing students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who did not "Pass" the FITNESSGRAM in grade 9. Schools are also responsible for monitoring student progress and maintaining student records. Questions regarding conditioning activities, test administration, and maintaining records of grade 10, 11 and 12 student progress on the FITNESSGRAM are to be directed to the Division of Instruction.

Content and Format: The FITNESSGRAM is composed of six fitness areas. Schools are to administer the complete FITNESSGRAM test battery to measure student performance in each of the six components:

- Aerobic Capacity
- Body Composition
- Abdominal Strength and Endurance
- Trunk Extensor Strength and Flexibility



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- Upper Body Strength and Endurance
- Flexibility

III. Initial English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC)

State and federal law require the administration of a State test of English Language Proficiency (ELP) to eligible students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The Initial ELPAC is the required State test for ELP that must be given to students whose primary language is a language other than English.

Initial ELPAC will be administered as a computer-based assessment for the first time in fall 2020. Additional information about the new online assessment will be communicated to schools as it becomes available.

The Initial ELPAC must be administered within 30 calendar days of a student's enrollment in a California public school or 60 days prior to instruction, but not before July 1st per Initial ELPAC regulations.

Newly enrolled students are assessed with the Initial ELPAC upon entry into a California school if either of the following are true:

- The response to any of the first three questions on the Home Language Survey (HLS) is a language other than English
- ALL the conditions listed below are true:
 1. Response to each of the first three questions on the HLS is English, and
 2. Response to question number four is other than English, and
 3. There is reasonable doubt as to the student's proficiency in English.

Newly enrolled students in Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (ETK), Transitional Kindergarten (TK), or grades K-12 are to be assessed with the Initial ELPAC for the corresponding grade level. For ETK and TK, students will take the Kindergarten Initial ELPAC test.

IV. Summative English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC)

The Summative ELPAC has four reporting domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The Summative ELPAC is used to measure a student's progress in learning English and to identify the student's level of ELP.



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Continuing ELs are to be assessed with the Summative ELPAC as described below until they are reclassified.

- All currently identified ELs enrolled in grades K-12 and retained kindergarteners must be tested with the ELPAC Summative Assessment. ETK and TK students will take the Kindergarten ELPAC.
- Retained students are to be tested with the level of the test for their enrolled grade. The Summative ELPAC has seven grades/grade spans: K, 1, 2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–10, and 11–12.

The Summative ELPAC testing window will be from February 1 to May 28, 2021.

- All eligible students enrolled at the school must be tested by May 14, 2021.
- New eligible students who enroll at the school from May 17, 2021 through May 28, 2021 must be tested by the May 28th deadline.

The CDE is developing the Alternate ELPAC. The Alternate ELPAC will replace all locally determined alternate assessments and provide a consistent, standardized measurement of English Language Proficiency across the state for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The statewide operational field test will be administered in January-March 2021. Additional information about this test will be provided to schools as it becomes available.

V. National Assessments

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.

NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling procedure for the assessment to be representative of schools and students in the United States based on characteristics such as school location, minority enrollment, level of school achievement, and average income of the geographic area. Therefore, schools with a unique student population may be selected each assessment cycle. Moreover, to ensure that the student sample represents students from large and small schools in the appropriate proportions, large schools are more likely to be selected than small schools.



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NAEP is administered to students in grades four, eight and twelve. Selected students in each grade level will be assessed in one subject area—mathematics, reading, or science.

LAUSD schools selected to participate in the NAEP 2021 assessment cycle will be notified by the CDE.

RELATED RESOURCES:

- Student Testing Branch – <http://achieve.lausd.net/testing>
- Division of Instruction (213) 241-5333.
- California Department of Education:
 - o EAP <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/eapindex.asp>
 - o CAASPP <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>
 - o PFT <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/>
 - o ELPAC <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/>

ASSISTANCE:

For assistance or further information, please email studenttestingbranch@lausd.net. When district offices reopen, contact the Student Testing Branch at (213) 241-4104.



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ATTACHMENT A

2020-21 TESTING CALENDAR

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TESTS	DATES	GRADES
	Initial ELPAC	August 18, 2020 – June 10, 2021	ETK/TK/K-6
	CAA for Science	September 2020 – June 10, 2021	5
	NAEP	January 12 – March 12, 2021	4
	Alternate ELPAC	January-March 2021	ETK/TK/K-6
	PFT - Fitnessgram	February 1 – March 19, 2021	5
	Summative ELPAC – Students enrolled during testing window	February 1 – May 14, 2021	ETK/TK/K-6
	Summative ELPAC – New enrollees who enroll in May	May 17 – May 28, 2021	ETK/TK/K-6
	Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments	March 9 – June 10, 2021	3-6
	CAA	March 9 – June 10, 2021	3-6
	CAST	March 9 – June 10, 2021	5
CSA	March 9 – June 10, 2021	3-6	

MIDDLE SCHOOL	TESTS	DATES	GRADES
	Initial ELPAC	August 18, 2020 – June 10, 2021	6-8
	CAA for Science	September 2020 – June 10, 2021	8
	NAEP	January 12 – March 12, 2021	8
	Alternate ELPAC	January-March 2021	6-8
	PFT – Fitnessgram	February 1 – March 19, 2021	7
	Summative ELPAC – Students enrolled during testing window	February 1 – May 14, 2021	6-8
	Summative ELPAC – New enrollees who enroll in May	May 17 – May 28, 2021	6-8
	Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments	March 9 – June 10, 2021	6-8
	CAA	March 9 – June 10, 2021	6-8
	CAST	March 9 – June 10, 2021	8
CSA	March 9 – June 10, 2021	6-8	

HIGH SCHOOL	TESTS	DATES	GRADES
	Initial ELPAC	August 18, 2020 – June 10, 2021	9-12
	CAA for Science ¹	September 2020 – June 10, 2021	11, 12
	Alternate ELPAC	January-March 2021	9-12
	PFT – Fitnessgram	February 1 – March 19, 2021	9
	Summative ELPAC – Students enrolled during testing window	February 1 – May 14, 2021	9-12
	Summative ELPAC – New enrollees who enroll in May	May 17 – May 28, 2021	9-12
	Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments	March 9 – June 10, 2021	11
	CAA	March 9 – June 10, 2021	11
	CAST ¹	March 9 – June 10, 2021	11-12
	CSA	March 9 – June 10, 2021	9-11

¹ Grade 12 students who did not take CAST or CAA for science in high school will be required to take the science or CAA for science in spring 2021. Students repeating grade twelve are not eligible to test.

IMPORTANT: Dates are subject to change based on availability of online applications, testing materials, and/or changes in regulations.