



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

TITLE: 2021-22 State and National Mandated Testing Calendars

NUMBER: REF-111510.1

ISSUER: Saul Fernandez, Interim Executive Director
Office of Data and Accountability

DATE: February 9, 2022

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 2021-22 school year.

MAJOR CHANGES:

- Students whose IEP teams indicate an alternate assessment for either California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) or English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) in the Test Operations Management System (TOMS) will automatically be assigned the alternate assessment for both programs (CAASPP and ELPAC).
- Fitnessgram testing window has changed.
- For Summative ELPAC purposes, Alternate ELPAC will be administered for the first time to eligible English Learners.

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



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

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.

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 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), which are subject to amendments, 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 2021-22 school year, California and Federal regulations require the implementation of the testing programs outlined below. Specific information about each testing program is provided. 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 four computer-based assessments. For the 2021-22 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. CAA for Science parent notification templates will be available in fall 2021. Parent notification letter templates for the remaining CAASPP assessments will be available in



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

winter 2022. Parent notification letter templates will be posted on the Student Testing Branch website at <https://achieve.lausd.net/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.

For Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, the testing window begins when 66 percent of the school's instructional days have been completed, and testing continues up to and including the last day of instruction. The Testing window for each school opens on the day the first student logs into a CAASPP summative assessment in spring 2022. The testing window for all schools in the district closes on the last day of school—June 10, 2022.

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

Student Participation: The Smarter Balanced 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, except the following:

- Students who participate in the CAA as indicated on their Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- 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 are not required to take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment for ELA.

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 mathematics 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 Smarter Balanced 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 and participating California Community Colleges to determine EAP status.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

- 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 whose IEPs indicate assessment with an alternate test. If CAA is not indicated in the IEP, the student is required to 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 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 with significant cognitive disabilities whose IEPs indicate the use of an alternate science assessment.

Student Participation: Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 whose IEPs indicate the use of an alternate assessment for science 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.

Content and Format: The CAA for Science tests are 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.

Before designating an alternate assessment, IEP teams must review the guidance from the CDE in determining whether the CAA or the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments would be the most appropriate assessment. Alternate Assessment IEP Team Guidance is available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caaiepteamrev.asp>.

Students who are assigned the CAA for CAASPP in TOMS will automatically be assigned the Alternate ELPAC.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

- 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
- 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 enrolled in grades 5, 7, and 9 must be tested, including those with a physical disability, and each pupil who is physically unable to take all of the physical performance test shall be given as much of the test as his or her condition permits. This includes



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

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.

Questions regarding monitoring students' physical education class exemption are to be directed to the Division of Instruction (DOI).

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

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.

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. The Initial ELPAC has six grades/grade spans: K, 1, 2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–12.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

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.

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. 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 27, 2022. All eligible students enrolled at the school must be tested during this window.

V. Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC)

The CDE has developed the Alternate ELPAC. The Alternate ELPAC will replace all locally determined alternate assessments (VCCALPS in LAUSD) and provide a consistent, standardized measurement of English Language Proficiency across the state for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The Alternate ELPAC testing window will be open from November 2, 2021 through January 28, 2022.

Before designating an alternate assessment, IEP teams must review the guidance from the CDE in determining whether the Alternate ELPAC or Summative ELPAC would be the most appropriate assessment. Alternate Assessment IEP Team Guidance is available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caaiepteamrev.asp>.

Students who are assigned the Alternate ELPAC in TOMS will automatically be assigned the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for CAASPP.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENCE GUIDE

VI. National Assessments

- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

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.

LAUSD schools selected to participate in the NAEP 2022 assessment cycle will be notified by the CDE. Selected schools will administer the assessment in grades four, eight and twelve. Selected students in each grade level will be assessed in one subject area—mathematics, reading, or science.

In 2022, NAEP will also be administering NAEP Long Term Trend (LTT). Since the 1970s, NAEP has monitored student performance in mathematics and reading through LTT assessments. These assessments measure students' educational progress over long time periods to look for and monitor trends in performance. Results from the LTT assessments are based on nationally representative samples of 9-, 13-, and 17-year olds.

RELATED RESOURCES:

- Student Testing Branch – <http://achieve.lausd.net/testing>
- Division of Instruction (213) 241-5333 - <https://achieve.lausd.net/instruction#spn-content>
- Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department (213) 241-5582 - <https://achieve.lausd.net/mmed#spn-content>
- EAP <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/g/hs/eapindex.asp>
- CAASPP – CDE <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>
- CAASPP – ETS <https://www.caaspp.org/>
- PFT <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/>



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENCE GUIDE

- ELPAC – CDE <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/>
- ELPAC – ETS <https://www.elpac.org/>
- NAEP <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

ASSISTANCE: For assistance, contact the Student Testing Branch at (213) 241-4104.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENCE GUIDE

ATTACHMENT A

2021-22 TESTING CALENDAR

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TESTS	DATES	GRADES
	Initial ELPAC	8/16/21 – 6/10/22	ETK/TK/K-6
	CAA for Science	9/2021 – 6/10/22	5
	Alternate ELPAC	11/2/21 – 1/28/22	ETK/TK/K-6
	NAEP	1/24/22 – 3/4/22	4
	Physical Fitness Test (PFT) – Fitnessgram (Updated)	4/4/22 – 5/31/22	5
	Summative ELPAC (Updated)	2/1/22 – 5/27/22	ETK/TK/K-6
	Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	3-6
	CAA	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	3-6
	CAST	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	5
CSA	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	3-6	

MIDDLE SCHOOL	TESTS	DATES	GRADES
	Initial ELPAC	8/16/21 – 6/10/22	6-8
	CAA for Science	9/2021 – 6/10/22	8
	NAEP	1/24/22 – 3/4/22	8
	Alternate ELPAC	11/2/21 – 1/28/22	6-8
	Physical Fitness Test (PFT) – Fitnessgram (Updated)	4/4/22 – 5/31/22	7
	Summative ELPAC (Updated)	2/1/22 – 5/27/22	6-8
	Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	6-8
	CAA	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	6-8
	CAST	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	8
CSA	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	6-8	

HIGH SCHOOL	TESTS	DATES	GRADES
	Initial ELPAC	8/16/21 – 6/10/22	9-12
	CAA for Science ¹	9/2021 – 6/10/22	11, 12
	Alternate ELPAC	11/2/21 – 1/28/22	9-12
	NAEP	1/24/22 – 3/4/22	12
	Physical Fitness Test (PFT) – Fitnessgram (Updated)	4/4/22 – 5/31/22	9
	Summative ELPAC (Updated)	2/1/22 – 5/27/22	9-12
	NAEP Long Term Trend	3/21/22 – 5/27/22	17 year olds
	Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	11
	CAA	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	11
CAST ¹	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	11-12	
CSA	3/9/22 – 6/10/22	9-11	

¹ Grade 12 students who have not taken CAST or CAA for science in high school will be required to take CAST or CAA for science in spring 2022. 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.