
Dear SCUSD Families:

As you may have heard, California is replacing the old pencil-and-paper tests taken each spring with new, computer-based assessments tied to more modern learning goals for students.

Called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), these tests replace the STAR program and most of the California Standards Tests (CSTs).

This spring, our students, like thousands of others across the state, will participate in a trial of the CAASPP program. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the practice tests sometime during the testing window period (April 7-May 16). Please check with your school for testing dates.

Because this is a “test of the tests” – an opportunity to see which questions allow students to show what they have learned – student scores will NOT be recorded. Unlike past summers, you will NOT receive scores in the mail for the CAASPP.

You will, however, be notified of your child’s score on the science CST, which the state still requires.

The CAASPP tests are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English and math, which the state adopted in 2010. The Common Core standards describe what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. Designed to prepare students for college and careers, Common Core standards are very challenging and ask students to solve problems, think critically, read complex text and practice academic writing, such as essays and reports. The new tests will require familiarity with basic computer skills, such as keyboarding (typing) and controlling a mouse.

If you want to see what types of questions students will be asked or how the tests will be presented, visit www.scusd.edu/testing, where you will find a link to practice tests called Smarter Balanced Assessments.

If you would like more information, please visit www.scusd.edu/testing and click the link to the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Web page. If you have any questions regarding your child’s participation, please contact your child’s school.

Sincerely,

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent