A New Kind of Science Test for California

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is a new assessment for eligible students with individualized education programs (IEPs) that designate the use of an alternate assessment to measure student progress using alternate achievement standards.

The CAA for Science is a part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System. The CAA for Science is aligned with alternate achievement standards called the Science Connectors, which are linked to the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).

What does my child’s score mean?

There are three levels of scores for the CAA for Science.

- **Understanding** (Level 3—Alternate)
- **Foundational Understanding** (Level 2—Alternate)
- **Limited Understanding** (Level 1—Alternate)

What is the California Alternate Assessment for Science?

The CAA for Science gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their learning by taking a test aligned with alternate achievement standards for their grade level. Working with a teacher, Matthew was encouraged to complete questions as independently as possible. Matthew had an opportunity to answer questions representing different levels of complexity, which helps to demonstrate what Matthew knows and can do. Like other CAASPP tests, the CAA for Science offers accessibility resources according to the needs of each student as described in the student's IEP.
Matthew’s 2022–23 California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science

Matthew showed foundational understanding of core concepts in Science.

We encourage you to review the results of this assessment with your child’s teacher and other members of your child’s individualized education program team.

Parent/Guardian Resources

Visit the Starting Smarter website at https://ca.startingsmarter.org/ to
• understand your child’s score report,
• review sample test questions, and
• find free resources to support your child’s learning.

Complete results for schools, districts, and the state are available on the Test Results for California’s Assessments website at https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/.