



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 18, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

**UPDATE ON FEDERAL WAIVER REQUEST UNDER TITLE I, PART A,
SECTION 8401 TO WAIVE DOUBLE TESTING OF SCIENCE REQUIREMENT**

In May 2016, the State Board of Education approved the submission of the federal waiver request to not double test or report individual scores for the new California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) summative assessments while conducting pilot and field testing of the CA NGSS general and alternate assessments.

The California Department of Education (CDE) received a response from the U.S Department of Education (ED) on September 30, 2016, which provides the CDE an opportunity to resubmit a revised waiver within 60 days. The CDE will be revising the waiver request and resubmitting as the ED suggested, within 60 days of the receipt of the letter.

Beginning with the 2016–17 academic year, the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System begins a four-year development cycle for science (see Attachment). For the pilot test in March 2017, all students in grades five and eight and one grade in high school—grade ten, eleven, or twelve—will take either the California Science Test (CAST) or eligible students may take the California Alternate Assessment for Science (CAA for Science).

For more information regarding the waiver or the science assessments, please contact the CAASPP Office by phone at 916-445-8765 or by e-mail at caaspp@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent
District, School, and Innovation Branch

KA:cc
Attachment

cc: Local Education Agency CAASPP Coordinators

Science Test Development Cycle

Year	California Science Test (CAST)	Available Testing Window	California Alternate Assessment for Science (CAA for Science)	Available Testing Window
2016–17	Pilot test	March 20, 2017 to the Local Education Agency's (LEA) selected testing window or last day of instruction	Pilot test	March 20, 2017 to the LEA's selected testing window or last day of instruction
2017–18	Field test	TBD	Pilot test	TBD
2018–19	Operational test	TBD	Field test	TBD
2019–20	Operational test	TBD	Operational test	TBD