



Silver Valley Unified School District

35320 Daggett-Yermo Road, P.O. Box 847, Yermo CA 92398

PHONE: (760)254-2916

FAX: (760)254-2091

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Each spring, most students in California participate in the statewide testing program, which is the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System. The tests in the CAASPP System provide information to teachers, parents/guardians, and students about students' progress and readiness for college and career. In grades three through eight and grade eleven, most students take the Smarter Balanced online tests for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. However, students who have a significant cognitive disability (as designated in their individualized education program) are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs). In grades five, eight, and ten, students are also tested in science. **This year students will take the test in grades 3–8, and 11 from March 14, 2016 through May 6, 2015.**

This year, your child will take the following assessments for ELA and mathematics:

- Smarter Balanced tests for ELA and mathematics or
- CAAs for ELA and mathematics

This year if your student is in grades 5, 8, and 10

- One of the following assessments for science :
 - California Standards Test (CST) for Science
 - California Modified Assessment (CMA) for Science

Smarter Balanced Assessments

The Smarter Balanced online tests are based on the new California Content Standards, also known as the Common Core State Standards, for mathematics and ELA. While last year's test results provided parents with **baseline** information on how their children were performing in ELA and mathematics, in 2016 parents will be able to compare results across **two years** (2014–15 and 2015–16) and determine their children's progress in meeting California's rigorous academic standards. (Exception: Only one year of data will be reported for students in grades 3 and 11.)

The California Department of Education (CDE) has developed several resources to help students and parents understand the grade expectations of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments:

- The *Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Assessments* (in English and Spanish) are posted on the CDE's CAASPP Web page, under the Students and Parents Tab, at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>. Separate guides have been developed for each of the three grade spans tested:

Lewis Elementary School
(760) 386-1900

Tiefert View Intermediate School
(760) 386-3123

Newberry Springs Elementary School
(760) 257-3211

Yermo School
(760) 254-2931

Fort Irwin Middle School
(760) 386-1133

Silver Valley High School
(760) 254-2963

Alternative Education Center
(760) 254-2715

POWERFUL LEARNING FOR OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE



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grades 3–5, grades 6–8, and grade 11. Each guide explains the grade-level expectations for students in ELA and mathematics and provides sample test items.

- The practice and training tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>, can help parents and students experience the type of test items that students will encounter on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Answers to the practice test and scoring rubrics for the performance tests are posted on the Test Administrator (TA) Resources for the Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.caaspp.org/ta-resources/practice-training.html>.

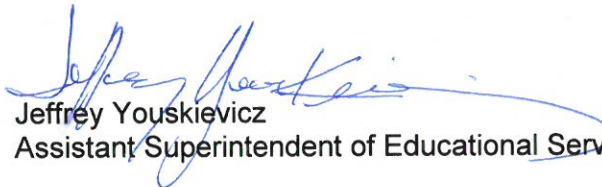
California Education Code 60615 does permit a parent/guardian to exclude their child from testing. That request MUST be made in writing. If you would like more information, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact the principal at your child's school.

If you would like more information about the CAASPP System, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE's CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>.

If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact your school's principal.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Youskievicz
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

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