



Downey Unified School District

Gallegos Administration Center

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP is the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress on an annual basis and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP assessments include computer adaptive tests in English–language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics for students in grades 3 – 8 and 11 and this year, a field test in science for students in grades 5, 8, 11, and 12.

This year, students at Downey High School will take the CAASPP tests from April 11th – April 26th. To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test Web page at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

Following spring 2018 CAASPP testing, individual student score reports displaying CAASPP results from 2016, 2017, and 2018 will be sent home to parents. Student score reports will include an overall score and a description of the student's achievement level for ELA and mathematics. Score reports for students in grades 5, 8, 11 and 12 will *not* include results of the field science test. Early Assessment Program (EAP) results will be included on the score reports for students in grade 11, providing an early indication of readiness for college-level coursework.

With CAASPP, the purpose of statewide annual assessments shifted from producing annual accountability reports to assisting teachers, administrators, and pupils and their parents to improve teaching and learning throughout the school year. [Education Code 60602. (a)] Results from the CAASPP assessments will be used, along with other available data, to determine the impact of selected curriculum/programs, and to make other instructional plans.

As the parent or guardian, you have the option of excusing your child from any part of the CAASPP. If you would like to excuse your child from the test, you must submit your request in writing to your child's school. [Education Code 60615.] We will grant your request. Please let the school know as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements for your student.

If you have any questions regarding CAASPP, please contact Heidi Warhurst at hwarhurst@dusd.net. If you would like more information on CAASPP, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the California Department of Education (CDE) Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tq/ca/>.

Sincerely,

Tom Houts

Principal