



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Shortly before school ended for the year, your child took part in the 2017–18 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), which includes the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. These tests are based on California’s challenging academic standards, which include the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems—the very skills needed to succeed in college and a 21st century career. These skills take time and effort to master, but our students will need them to succeed in the long run.

In our school district, we see a student’s test results as one measure of his or her academic progress. They will not be used to determine whether a student moves to the next grade. Schools can use the results to identify specific areas in which to focus more attention in the next school year, while teachers can use the results to identify and address individual student needs. We recommend that parents and/or guardians discuss the test results with their child’s teacher.

The student score report enclosed with this letter shows your child’s achievement for ELA and mathematics. Please take a few moments to review it. You’ll notice that along with an overall score for each subject, there is also information about how your child performed in different skill areas associated with ELA and mathematics. If your child tested in 16-17, you’ll notice that the score report presents score history which allows you to see your child’s progress over time.

Several resources are available to help you understand the CAASPP Student Score Report and interpret the results. They include:

- Sample student score reports, available in both English and Spanish
- “*Understanding the CAASPP Student Score Report*” video, available in both English and Spanish
- *Guide to Understanding the CAASPP Student Score Report*, available in English, Spanish, and other languages
- Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, available in both English and Spanish.

All of the above resources are posted on the California Department of Education’s CAASPP Student Score Report Information Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppsrinfo.asp>.



In addition, the new Test Score Guide Web page <http://testscoreguide.org/ca> was launched on June 20, 2016. The California specific Web page was developed in collaboration with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and is referenced on the CAASPP Student Score Report. The information on the new Web page will help parents/guardians and students understand the overall Smarter Balanced score and the corresponding achievement level, as well as the student's strengths and weaknesses by "claim" (i.e., area).

For students in grade 5, a new science test California Science Test (CAST) that is aligned with California's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) was field tested this school year and preliminary indicators will be available in the fall of 2018. The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for students in special education is in the year 2 pilot and preliminary indicators will be calculated once all 3 performance tasks have been completed.

Our schools and teachers are extremely proud of the results that we have attained in the Newhall School District. We continue to adjust and gain deeper understanding of the new standards and assessments, continuously striving for mastery for all students. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact your school principal to set up a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pelzel, Superintendent