

# Spring 2021 Student Testing

Information for  
Students, Parents/  
Guardians, and  
Families

## Testing: It Is Going to Happen

This spring, all eligible California students will take the year-end tests based on their current grade level. This may include the:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics;
- California Science Test;
- Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California or a locally determined alternate assessment as determined by the student's individualized educational program team;
- California Alternate Assessments for ELA, mathematics, and science; and
- optional California Spanish Assessment.

Reach out to your child's teacher to find out which tests your child will be taking this spring.

## Learning Is Different, So Testing Is Different

Learning has probably been different for your child this year. Whatever "different" means for your family, one thing remains true—students have worked very hard and this spring they will have a chance to show what they know and can do. Since learning has been different, testing will be different too:

- The computer adaptive portion of the Smarter Balanced tests will be shorter than in previous years. This will give teachers more time to teach and students more time to master the material.
- Testing may be done in person or remotely. This will depend on the type of test your child is eligible to take, your school and district policies, and guidance from your local public health agency.

Your child's teacher will have more information about the specific testing plan for your child.

## Different But Just As Important As Ever

The end-of-year tests will give you, your child, and your child's teacher(s) important information about this year's learning. Use test results along with grades, classwork, homework, and teacher feedback to understand whether your child is on track to meet grade level standards, or needs additional support.

## Here's How You Can Help Your Student

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child prepare for testing are:

- Connect with your child's teacher to understand expectations.
- Encourage your child to try their best on each question.
- Remind your child that it's OK not to know answers to some questions.
- Encourage your child to answer all questions by making an educated guess when they are not sure about what the correct answer is.
- Create a quiet place where your child can take the test.
- Remind your child that the test results are only one way to show learning.
- Do not attempt to help your child during the test by clarifying instructions or providing answers to questions.

Your child's teacher will have more information about the specific testing plan for your child.

For more information about spring testing, visit <https://ca-toms-help-qc.ets.org/spring-21-parents-guardians/>.



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