



WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

600 Sixth Street, Suite 400, Lincoln CA 95648
Ph: 916-645-6350

Board of Trustees:

Paul Long
Brian Haley
Paul Carras
Kris Wyatt
Damian Armitage

Superintendent: Scott Leaman

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

California's academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate ready for college and a career. One way we measure their progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. Students across California in grades 3–8 and high school take these assessments each spring. These tests were created specifically to gauge each student's performance in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. These tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems.

Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards. Given online, the tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more precise measurement of individual skills.

This year, your child will take the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics

Smarter Balanced Assessments

The Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics tests reflect California's rigorous academic standards and allow students to demonstrate analytical writing and critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of facts.

These assessments also serve as an indicator of readiness for college-level coursework in English and mathematics and are used by the California State University (CSU) and participating California Community Colleges (CCCs) to determine Early Assessment Program (EAP) status:

- Students who score Standard Exceeded (Level 4) are considered ***ready*** for *English and/or mathematics college-level coursework* and are *exempt* from taking the CSU English Placement Test (EPT) and/or Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) exam. These students will be able to register in college degree-bearing courses upon entering a CSU or participating CCC.
- Students who score Standard Met (Level 3) are considered ***conditionally ready*** for *English and/or mathematics college-level coursework* and are *exempt* from taking the EPT and/or ELM exam. However, they must take an approved English and/or mathematics course in the twelfth grade and receive a grade of "C" or better. Students who **do not meet the conditional requirement** will need to participate in the CSU's Early Start Program, unless exemption is met through another pathway.

To learn more about the Smarter Balanced Assessments, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Another great resource are 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>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact **Victoria Eutsey at 916-645-6360 ext. 111** or veutsey@wpusd.k12.ca.us.

Dr. Jay Berns
Principal