



# California Alternate Assessment: Frequently Asked Questions

## Which students should take the CAA?

The CAAs are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the Smarter Balanced Summative or California Science Test with supports and accommodations. Only eligible students may participate in the CAAs, as determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

## What's on the test?

The CAAs are aligned with alternate achievement standards, called the Core Content Connectors (CCCs), which are linked to the Common Core State Standards. The CCCs are less complex than the Common Core Standards, and focus on the main academic content in each subject and grade. Additional information about the CCCs and the test blueprints for the CAA can be found on the California Department of Education's [CAA website](#).

## How is the test administered?

Each CAA is administered in a one-to-one setting by a trained test administrator familiar to the student, typically the child's teacher. Although the CAA is administered on the computer, students are not necessarily expected to respond using the device. Teachers determine the appropriate method of response based on the individual student's communication skills. Similar to the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the CAA has embedded and non-embedded tools, supports, and accommodations. Unlike the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the CAA opens supports and accommodations to additional resources used in everyday instruction.

## Where can I find additional information?

For additional information about the CAAs, including information about test content and guidelines for determining whether the CAA is the most appropriate assessment for a student, please visit the California Department of Education website at the following link: [California Alternate Assessment - California Department of Education](#)