



Scores for the California Science Test

3 Things to Keep in Mind

New Scores Cannot Be Compared to Old Scores

The new California Science Test (CAST) is based on the Next Generation Science Standards, covering content from Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences. Since this is a new test that assesses new standards, results from the new CAST cannot be compared to results from the old CSTs.

Scores May Appear Lower

While we cannot compare results between the old and new tests, you might notice that scores seem lower overall on the new test. This is because the new test is based on new standards that set higher expectations for student success. These results provide a baseline. We expect results to improve in future years as we continue to implement the new standards.



New Standards

Getting it right takes time. Educators are still in the process of adjusting teaching and learning through the Next Generation Science Standards. Together, we are making real progress in developing a system that will educate the future workforce in this fast-changing environment of science and technology.



Higher Expectations

The new tests are aligned to new, more difficult standards that emphasize analytical thinking, reasoning, and applying knowledge to a variety of situations.



New Format

The CAST is taken online, and includes new item types that allow students to interact with test content in different ways. For example, students might be asked to write a short response, or collect and analyze data from an experiment.



More Students Participate

The CAST is more accessible than the old paper-pencil exams, meaning more students take the test. Students who previously took a modified assessment now take the same assessment as their peers.

Scores Are One of Multiple Measures

Scores provide one piece of information about a student's performance, and should be used as one of multiple measures when evaluating strengths and needs. Scores will not be used as the sole determining factor for any high stakes decisions, including promotion or retention, intervention, or qualification for special programs.