



Preliminary Results for the California Science Test

Preliminary results from the 2018 California Science Test (CAST) are being sent to parents/guardians in early January. The purpose of this score release is to meet federal waiver requirements and avoid double-testing students (giving both the new CAST and the old CST). Caution should be used when interpreting these results since the test is still being developed. Official scores will be released when the CAST is operational in spring 2019.

Who Will Receive Results?

Students will receive a preliminary results letter if they were in grades 5, 8, 11, or 12 in 2017-18 and participated in the science field test. A sample of this letter is included on the next page.

- Students from the class of 2018 will receive results in the mail even though they no longer attend IUSD. This is not an error in our records, simply a delayed score release.

What Types of Results Will Students Receive? What Do They Mean?

Each student will receive a **percent correct** and a **preliminary indicator category** (considerable understanding, moderate understanding, or limited understanding).

Key Considerations

- Please keep in mind that students participated in the science test while it was still being developed. Preliminary indicators are not precise enough to stand on their own and should only be used in conjunction with other information about student performance.
- These preliminary results are not comparable to the scale scores and achievement levels students will receive when the science test is operational this spring. The operational assessment will provide more accurate information about student science achievement.
- The majority of IUSD students received a preliminary indicator in the 'moderate understanding' range, and the state average percent correct on the test is between 33-44%. This is likely due to the preliminary nature of the results, and should not be taken as an indication that a student is performing below standard in science.
- The best resource for information about a student's science achievement is his/her teacher.

How Will Results Be Used?

- Preliminary results will not be included in a student's academic record (either in Aeries or their cumulative file).
- Preliminary results will not be used when making any high stakes academic decisions, including eligibility for special programs.