

California Science Test Pilot



WHAT:

The California Science Test (CAST) Pilot is aligned to the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) that were adopted by the State Board of Education in March 2013.

The CA NGSS emphasize the importance of having a deep understanding of science concepts and engaging in scientific thinking.

The pilot test replaces the California Standards Test (CST) and California Modified Assessment (CMA) for science.

HOW:

The pilot test will be computer based and includes a performance task that requires students to solve a series of complex problem sets.

The test will consist of 12–15 questions and a performance task with 5–7 questions.

Testing should not take more than one hour. Both students and teachers will be asked to complete a survey about their testing experience.

WHO:

The CAST will be administered to all students in grades 5 and 8, and all students in the pre-selected grade for each high school.

All high schools in CA will participate. Each high school will be assigned a single grade to test, either grade ten, eleven, or twelve.

High School grade assignments can be found on the CAASPP.org Web site at <http://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/science/science-assignments.html>.

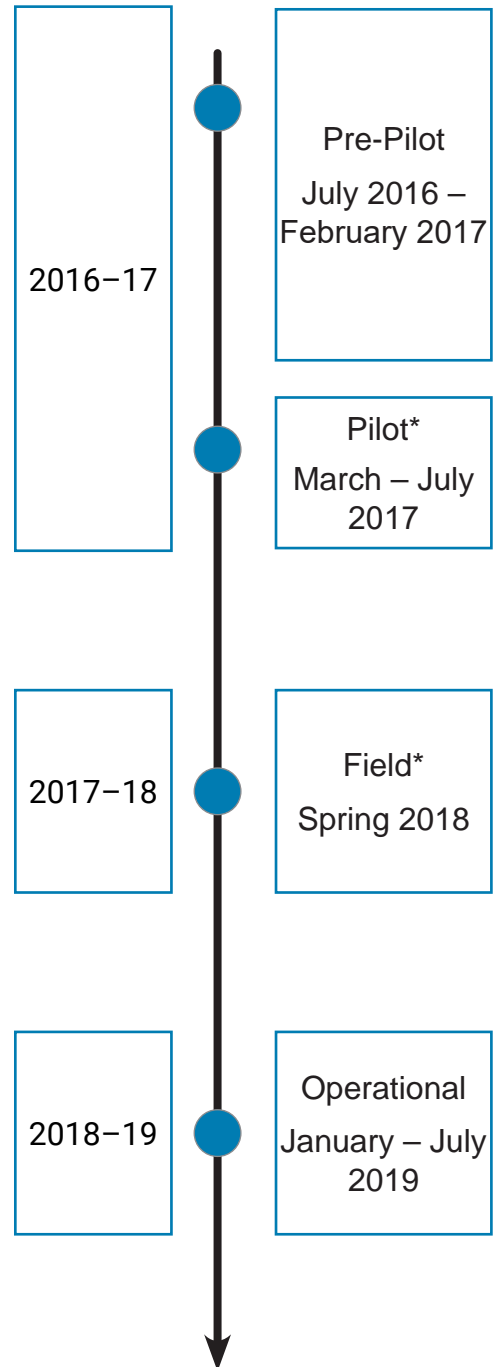
WHY:

The purpose of the pilot test is to try out the newly developed item types and test system functionality.

The completed CAST pilot tests will be used for participation purposes for accountability.

The pilot also provides information for future item development for the field test in spring 2018 and is a chance to test out the accessibility supports for the CAST.

WHEN:



*Until development of the test has been completed and reviewed, no student scores or aggregated results will be released.

California Department of Education

For additional information, call your District CAASPP Coordinator or visit the CDE California Science Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

Accessible Alternative Version is available at this location: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/castfactsheet.pdf>.

