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CAASPP System Assessments 2016–17 California Alternate Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, and Science Parent and Guardian Notification Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated in their individualized education program (IEP), are eligible to take alternate assessments, as detailed below. While Education Code does allow parents/guardians to exempt a student from any or all testing through a written request, we hope you will take advantage of the valuable information that the CAASPP testing will provide about your child's academic achievement of our Common Core State Standards

This year, your child will take the following tests:

- **The California Alternate Assessments (CAAs)**

Students in grades three through eight and grade eleven who have an IEP that designates the use of an alternate assessment are eligible to take the CAAs in ELA and mathematics. The goal of the CAAs is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities attain increasingly higher achievement levels and leave high school ready for academic or career options. The test items are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics and are based on the Core Content Connectors, which were developed with three tiers of complexity.

CAA for Science—Pilot Test

California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated in their IEP, are eligible to take the CAA for Science.

This year your child will participate in the tryout of test items for the CAA for Science. While this tryout will not provide scores for you child, it is an important first step in developing an assessment that will fairly and accurately measure how students are achieving on the new science standards. For additional information about the new science tests, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>.

Sincerely,
Isabel Silva
Coordinator, Curriculum and Accountability
Encinitas Union School District