A New Kind of Science Test for California

This year, students in Grade 5 took the new California Science Test (CAST). This test measures students' understanding of the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), which cover the core ideas, concepts, and practices in science and engineering. The CAST is one measure of your child's academic performance. Your child's results should be viewed with other available information—such as classroom tests, assignments, and grades.

What do my child's scores mean?

There are four levels of scores for science. "Standard Met" and "Standard Exceeded" are the state targets for all students.

- Standard Exceeded (Level 4)
- Standard Met (Level 3)
- Standard Nearly Met (Level 2)
- Standard Not Met (Level 1)

About the CAST for Grade 5

The CAST is a challenging new science test that measures how well your child understands the scientific core ideas, concepts, and practices taught in Grade 5. The CAST assesses skills such as critical thinking and problem solving. The CAST contains stand-alone questions and performance tasks. The stand-alone questions include multiple choice, matching, fill-in, graphing, and short written responses. The performance tasks ask students to make sense of scientific phenomena in simulated experiments or real world situations. The knowledge and skills assessed on the CAST are critical for students to be prepared for success in college or career.
Matthew's score of 230 met the standard for Grade 5 science.

**Science Area Performance**

How well does your child understand the core ideas, concepts, and practices in science?

**Life Sciences:** Focusing on structures and processes in living things, ecosystems, heredity and biological evolution

- Below Standard
- Near Standard
- Above Standard

**Physical Sciences:** Focusing on matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy, and waves and their applications

- Below Standard
- Near Standard
- Above Standard

**Earth and Space Sciences:** Focusing on Earth's place in the universe, Earth's systems, and Earth and human activity

- Below Standard
- Near Standard
- Above Standard

**Parent/Guardian Resources**

Visit the test score website at [https://ca.startingsmarter.org/](https://ca.startingsmarter.org/) to:

- Understand your child’s score report
- Check out sample test questions
- Find free resources to support your child’s learning

Complete results for schools, districts, or the state are available on the CAASPP results website at [https://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/](https://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/).