



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We want to thank you for your continued patience as we adapt our school practices and procedures to accommodate the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate that parents, students, and teachers continue to step up in heroic ways and we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

As you may know, each year in the Spring, districts and schools are charged with administering the Smarter Balanced California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) to students in grades 3–8 and 11th. On March 16, 2021, the California State Board of Education (SBE) took action to move forward with the administration of the CAASPP for the 2020-21 year, but with flexibility and great sensitivity to the additional stress that annual assessments can place on teachers and students.

With Pasadena Board of Education approval, PUSD will administer the i-Ready end-of-year benchmark assessments to students in grades 3-8 for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, as it meets the flexibility criteria established by the SBE.

For grade 11, Pasadena Unified will administer the CAASPP Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and the California Science Test (CAST). PUSD will not be administering the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) this Spring.

The Summative (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) ELPAC tests will continue to be administered to all English learners.

Based on the SBE's action, the current Spring administration of the CAASPP has been adjusted to provide additional flexibility as follows:

- The assessment has been shortened by about an hour and a half for both mathematics and English language arts.
- Remote test administration has been enabled – allowing students to complete the assessment remotely from home.

The CAASPP tests continue to provide embedded universal tools and accommodations to ensure each student is able to fully engage with the test.

It is apparent that parents/guardians are more engaged than ever before in their student's learning and progress. Therefore, it is important that you are equipped with the most up to date information. It is the district's priority to provide parents/guardians to the clearest extent possible with an indicator of whether or not their child is on track for grade-level learning. Parents/guardians will receive their student's benchmark or CAASPP score reports from the 2020-21 administration when they are made available.

For any further questions about Spring assessments, please do not hesitate to contact your school office or your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued support,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian McDonald".

Brian McDonald, Ed.D.
Superintendent