



Pilot of the California Science Test

WHAT

The pilot of the California science test (CAST) is aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) which 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 and California Modified Assessment for science.

HOW

The pilot test will be computer based and include 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 five and eight, and all students in the pre-selected grade for each high school.

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

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

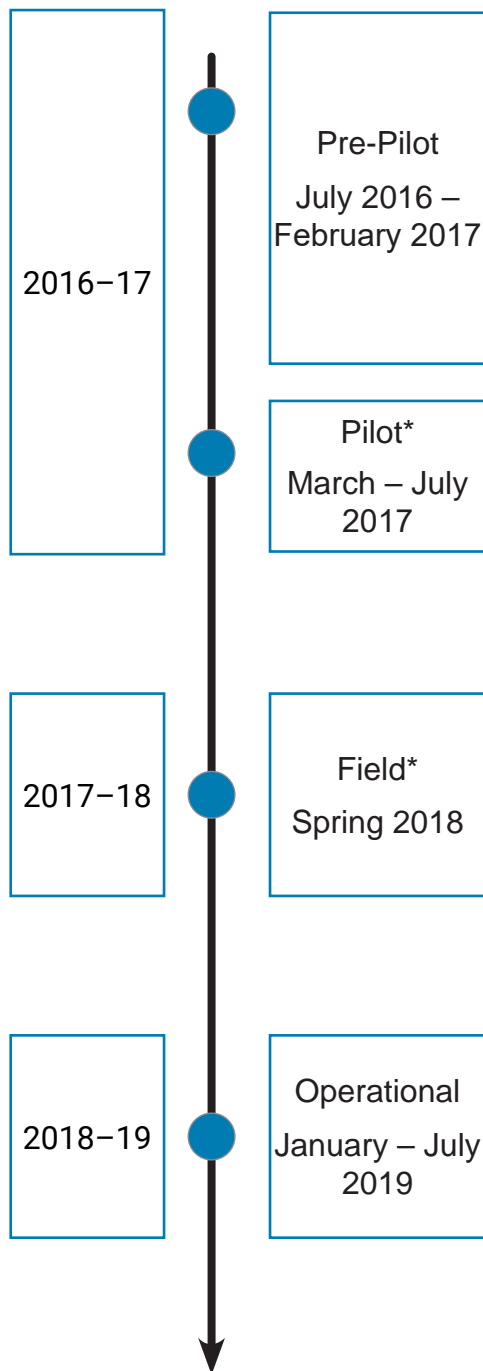
WHY

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.

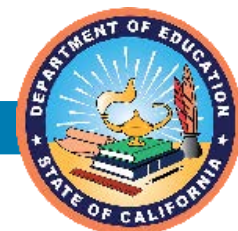
The pilot also will provide information for item development for the spring 2018 field test and offer an opportunity to test out the accessibility supports for the CAST.

WHEN



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

For additional information, call your CAASPP Coordinator or visit the California Department of Education CAST Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.



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