

March 20, 2026

Dear Westlake Families,

There are many ways to measure your child's learning. Your child's teacher uses report card grades, classroom work, teacher observations, and end-of-year statewide test results to get a complete picture of your child's learning. Each year, students participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). **This year, your child will take the following tests between April 27th - May 22nd, 2026, depending on their grade level or instructional program:**

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts and math, required tests in grades 3 - 8 and 11
- California Science Test (CAST) is a required test in grades 5, 8, and 11.

You are an important part of your child's education. To ensure your child feels comfortable taking these tests, you can:

- Explain to your child that these tests are used as tools to help them learn, and they should not be anxious or scared.
- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and are there to help every step of the way.
- Explore the practice tests with your child on the CAASPP Online Practice and Training Tests web page at <https://www.caaspp-elpac.org/resources/preparation/practice-and-training-tests> so they can become familiar with the platform and setup of the tests.
- Have your child get a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

You will receive your child's results at or before the beginning of the next school year. The results will identify where your child is doing well or needs more help, so you can better support their learning at home, and teachers can better support their learning in the classroom.

To learn more about these tests, go to the CAASPP Starting Smarter website at [ca.startingsmarter.org](http://ca.startingsmarter.org), or review the CDE Parent Guides to Understanding web page at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp).

Lastly, Westlake Charter School would like to inform you that, pursuant to California Education Code Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit a written request to the school to excuse their child from any or all CAASPP assessments. If a parent or guardian submits an exemption request after testing has begun, any test(s) completed before the request is submitted will be scored, and the results reported to the parent or guardian, and will be included in the student's records. If you wish to opt your student out of the CAASPP assessments, please follow the process listed below and complete it on or before **April 24, 2026**.

- Write a letter addressed to your student's principal stating that you would like to opt your student out of CAASPP testing for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Submit the letter to your student's principal.

If you have questions, please contact Jenifer Callau at 916-567-5760 or [jcallau@westlakecharter.com](mailto:jcallau@westlakecharter.com).

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