

San Diego Unified School District Special Education Division

California Modified Assessments

CMA criteria

Students in grades 3 through 8 who meet *all* the following criteria:

- Student who took the *CST* in a previous year and scored Far Below Basic or Below Basic or took the *CAPA* Level 2-5 in two previous years and received a performance level of Proficient or Advanced
- Student who will not receive a *proficient score* on the *CST* (even with accommodations) based on evidence from multiple, valid, and objective measures of student progress/lack of progress
- Student who has access to grade level curriculum, instruction, and materials with special education and related services in order to support and progress in general ed curriculum
- Student who has an IEP that includes California content standards-based goals and support in the classroom for subject(s) to be assessed by the CMA
- The IEP Team determines the student will *not* achieve grade-level proficiency even with instructional intervention
- Parents are informed that student's achievement will be measured based on *modified* achievement standards

CMA Tests available for 7th and 8th grade

- 7th grade CMA for ELA and General Math only
- 8th grade CMA for ELA and Science only
- No course specific tests are available this year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CST vs CMA

How is the CMA different from the CST so that I can explain it to parents?

The CMA is an alternate assessment of the California content standards based on modified achievement standards for children with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Additional information is available at the California Department of Education website at:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/bluenov07item14a6.pdf>.

Eligibility

If students took the CMA last year, are they still eligible? Are there criteria?

IEP Teams should review all the criteria and decide if it is still in the student's best interest to continue taking the CMA. There are no additional criteria.

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Frequently Asked Questions

CST criteria

Are second graders excluded from taking the CMA because they have not taken a CST and therefore can not have a score of below basic or far below basic?

What about students that come from other states or districts that haven't taken the CST or a state test but they meet all the other criteria and the students are performing at a level that shows that they aren't going to do well on the CST? Can these students be listed for the CMA?

What if parents have signed a waiver in previous years? Does this preclude a student from the CMA this year?

One criterion is that the student has taken the CST in a previous year and scored Far Below Basic or Below Basic or has scored Proficient or Advanced on the CAPA for 2 previous years.

Performance levels

When or how do we get results for students that took the CMA last year? We have tried retrieving results from Data Director but only get raw score.

Currently only raw scores are available for students in grades 3-5 who took the CMA last spring. There were work groups that met a few weeks ago in Sacramento to make recommendations to the state in regards to setting the 'cut points' for the performance levels on the CMA. Currently there are public hearings regarding these recommendations. The state will have to decide whether to accept these recommendations. Once the cut points are approved then the AYP and API scores will be recalculated based on the performance levels. Hopefully, later in the spring 2009 there will be performance levels for students who took the CMA last spring. Reminder-the CMA is a new assessment.

Will students taking the CMA get a score for their test other than Far Below Basic?

Each student gets an individual score just like on the CST or CAPA.

Administration of the CMA

Will there be actual trainings on how to administer the test? Will teachers be able to figure it out by looking at it prior to administering it? It's a group test, not an individual test, right?

The information on administration will be given to Site Test Coordinators at the 'Nuts and Bolts' trainings for the STAR. The Site Test Administrators will then do any necessary trainings at sites. It will be up to the sites to determine the groupings for administration, etc.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Goals

A lot of my students have grade level goals (put on last year - 5th grader now has a 4th grade level goal) - do I need to make another goal for ELA and Math on 5th grade standards? Also, some 4th and 5th graders have a 3rd grade goal - do I need to make a goal for their current grade level, even though they are not at that level (just modify the goal to their level?) On the CMA Criteria form, some students will show up with lower grade level goals (a 5th grader with reading goal at 3.1).

The criteria state that a student is eligible 'who has access to grade level curriculum, instruction, and materials with special education & related services in order to support and progress in general ed curriculum.'

The criteria also state that a student is eligible 'who has an IEP that includes California content standards-based goals and support in the classroom for subject(s) to be assessed by the CMA.' (i.e. ELA, Math, Science)

Therefore, students need grade level standard goals with accommodations/modifications to meet that standard because the CMA is based on that grade level. A 5th grade student taking the CMA in ELA needs a 5th grade standard based goal. There is no "out of grade level" testing.

For all my 5th graders, do I need to make another goal for science—would that be under reading comprehension in related subject areas?

YES. Students can have a goal such as 'comprehension in related subjects (Science).'

Do we need to have an IEP meeting to add the CMA and/or modify goals?

Best practice is to hold Annual/Triennial IEP meetings. prior to the beginning of the testing window. If IEPs have already been held for this school year please review the Special Education Procedures Manual—Section 5.20, page 5-29. (This link is accessible only through the district network.)

<http://dev031.sandi.net/specedmanuals/other/05%20IEP.pdf>

The section is called 'Amending an IEP without Convening a Meeting'. Please fill out the necessary forms and follow the procedure. A sample letter to the parent may be found on page 5-39 of Section 5.

Diploma

Does taking the CMA make a student 'non-diploma bound' since it is a modified assessment?

Absolutely not! The CMA is based on grade level standards.

California Modified Assessments Frequently Asked Questions

Accommodations and Modifications

I just had an Interim Placement IEP meeting where the student had CMA modifications. Is this possible?

*The CMA IS a modified assessment. No modifications can be used. Please see **Matrix for the California Modified Assessment Test Variations and Accommodations for the 2008 Administration** at http://www.startest.org/pdfs/STAR.coord_man.2008.appendix_d.pdf*

Document the decision to administer the CMA in the IEP in Encore by choosing the appropriate test on Special Factors page 3

Reminder—the IEP may contain modifications for any CST subtest to be administered, if appropriate.

If we choose the CMA for a student will they still be allowed the accommodations listed on their IEP or do those only pertain to the CST because the CMA is already modified?

ACCOMODATIONS STILL APPLY to the CMA administration. MODIFICATIONS DO NOT APPLY because the CMA is already a modified assessment