



March 2, 2020

Dear Berkeley Public School Families,

During the spring, Berkeley Unified students will participate in a series of state assessments and a survey known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. The results of these assessments provide useful information to students, families, teachers, principals and the district to improve the educational experience for Berkeley students. Because the CAASSP assessments align to the learning standards for each grade and subject, it is important that all students prepare for and participate in the tests.

Our goal, which is shared by all our Berkeley schools, is that every eligible student take the CAASSP assessment.

Please make sure you review the information on your school’s website to learn more about the assessments and the dates each will be given.

The following table summarizes the assessments.

Test/Survey	Grades of Administration	Description
CAASPP / CAA - California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress	3-8,11,12 (Science in 5, 8, and 12 only)	Computer adaptive tests and performance tasks in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science
ELPAC - English Language Proficiency Assessments for California	All grades until reclassification as proficient in English	Initial test of English proficiency for new students and annual summative tests for all students classified as English Learners
PFT - Physical Fitness Test	5, 7, and 9	A series of physical tasks administered by a teacher
CHKS - California Healthy Kids Survey	5, 7, 9, and 11	An anonymous survey on school climate and student wellness

You may review previous test scores for your student through the [Illuminate Family Portal](#).

You may also review previous [CHKS Results on the CalSCHLS website](#).

You can help your school to administer these assessments smoothly by avoiding unnecessary tardies and absences. In light of the community's vigilance regarding respiratory illnesses as the coronavirus situation develops, we understand that some absences may be unavoidable.

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 852, provides the right to request an exemption from specific tests. Requesting an exemption from testing must be done each year in writing to your student's principal. Carefully consider this option as it reduces critical data for school communities to make informed decisions related to teaching and learning.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Brent Stephens
Superintendent
Berkeley Unified School District