



2009 California Modified Assessment (CMA) Administration: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

FAQ Topics:

- Eligibility
- Accommodations and Modifications
- Braille and Large-Print Tests
- Audio CDs and Read-aloud Tests
- Tests for Students in Grade Eight
- General Testing Materials
- Reporting

Questions About Eligibility

Who takes the CMA?

Students in grades three through eight may participate in the CMA if they:

- Have an individualized education program (IEP) that specifies that they take the CMA for one or more subjects; and
- Scored below basic or far below basic in a previous year on the California Standards Tests (CSTs) for any subject and may have taken the CSTs with modifications (these students may take one or all of the grade-level CMA tests); and
- Are not eligible to take the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA).

Students should *not* take the CMA if they:

- Do not have an IEP; or
- Are eligible to take the CAPA.

Students may take the CMA in one or more content area—for example, a student may take the CMA for Mathematics and the CST for English–Language Arts (ELA).

If a student is eligible to take the CMA on the basis of having scored below basic or far below basic on a CST in a previous year, must the student always take the CMA?

The student's IEP team makes the decision annually by evaluating the student's progress on multiple measures.

What is the deadline for the IEP team to determine that a student must take the CMA?

There is no stated deadline for a student's assignment to the CMA although the student's IEP must be in place before testing begins. And while it is most efficient if school districts identify eligible students before the deadline for ordering materials on the STAR Management System, districts may also order materials for newly identified CMA test-takers through the supplemental order process.

Is a student who took the CMA in a previous year automatically eligible to take the CMA again?

No. Assignment to the CMA is made annually by the IEP team. The IEP team must specify annually the STAR tests the student is assigned to take.



Does a Section 504 Plan qualify a student to take the CMA?

No. Assignment to the CMA must be noted in the student’s IEP only.

Is it possible that a student could take a CST, a CMA, and the Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS)?

Yes. A Spanish-speaking English learner in grade three with an IEP could, for example, take the CST for Mathematics, the CMA for ELA, and the STS for Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts.

Questions About Accommodations and Modifications

Are modifications permitted on the CMA?

No. The CMA was developed to provide to eligible students additional access to an assessment based on the California content standards. Any further modification of the CMA tests is not permitted. A student who must be tested with additional modifications should take the CSTs with the appropriate modifications.

Will the Matrix of Test Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications on the CDE Web site be updated to include the CMA?

No. The Matrices of Test Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications for Administration of California Statewide Assessments, as it is called formally, includes test variations, accommodations, and modifications for the CSTs. There is another matrix, the California Modified Assessment Test Variations and Accommodations, that includes variations and accommodations especially for the CMA. Both documents will be included in Appendix E of the current *District and Test Site Coordinator Manual*. The current versions of the documents will also be linked on the CDE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/>.

Questions About Braille and Large-Print Tests

Are the tests for grades three through eight and the writing test available in braille and large print?

Special versions for the CMA tests are available as follows:

Test	Braille	Large Print
Grade 3 multiple choice	Yes	Yes
Grade 4 multiple choice	Yes	Yes
Grade 4 writing	No	Yes
Grade 5 multiple choice	Yes	Yes
Grade 6 multiple choice	No	Yes
Grade 7 multiple choice	No	Yes
Grade 7 writing	No	Yes
Grade 8 multiple choice	No	Yes

Large-print and braille special-version test booklets are packaged with one standard version 1 test booklet.



Questions About Audio CDs and Read-aloud Tests

Are audio CDs available for the CMA this year?

Audio CDs are available for the CMA for grades three, four, and five only; audio CDs are *not* available for grades six through eight or for the CMA Writing test.

The CD is packaged with a single version 1 test booklet. Additional version 1 test booklets can be ordered only when ordering an audio CD on the STAR Management System. However, the system will give a warning if the additional test booklet order quantity is greater than ten times the number of audio CDs ordered.

May any CMA test version be used with the audio CD?

No. Make sure that each student listening to questions read aloud by audio CD has a version 1 test booklet only; the questions in the version 1 test booklet are the only ones that will match the questions read on the audio CD.

STAR test site coordinators should contact their district STAR coordinator if there are not enough version 1 test booklets for students whose IEPs require that they hear a specific subject of the test read aloud.

May any CMA test version be used when test questions are read aloud by the test examiner?

Yes. If the test examiner personally reads the questions aloud, any version of the test booklet may be used for an individual student.

However, if the test examiner reads questions aloud to GROUPS of students in the same testing session, be aware that each student may have a different version of the test. This is because CMA test materials are delivered with multiple versions of the exam by grade level. Examiners should be careful to ensure that all students in GROUP read-aloud sessions have the same version.

Will the ELA passages be read aloud on the audio CDs?

No. Because reading ELA passages aloud is a modification, and modifications are not permitted on CMA tests, CMA audio CDs for ELA will not have ELA passages read aloud.

Will the CMA audio CDs arrive with the shipment of STAR materials?

No. The CMA audio CDs will arrive at the district in a separate shipment after the shipment of STAR materials has arrived and before testing begins.

Questions About Tests for Students in Grade Eight

What are the criteria for taking the CMA for Grade 8 Science?

A student may be eligible to take the CMA for Grade 8 Science if the student took the CSTs in a previous year and scored below basic or far below basic in ELA or mathematics and may have taken the CST with modifications. The student's IEP must specify that he or she is to take the CMA for Science.

Which CMA mathematics assessment should a student in grade eight take?

There is no grade-level CMA mathematics test for grade eight; currently, the CMA for mathematics is available for students in grades three through seven only. CMA-eligible students in grade eight should take the mathematics CST for which the student is eligible (General Mathematics, Algebra I, etc.) with the appropriate accommodations and/or modifications.



Is there a CMA for Grade 8 History–Social Science?

No. There is currently no CMA for Grade 8 History–Social Science. CMA-eligible students in grade eight should take the CST for Grade 8 History–Social Science with the appropriate accommodations and/or modifications.

Questions About General Testing Materials

Will standard coverage be supplied for CMA testing materials?

Yes. School districts will receive 5 percent and schools and test sites will receive 10 percent additional test booklets and answer documents as overage.

Questions About Reporting

Will performance levels for CMA results be reported in 2009?

Yes and no. Performance levels—advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic—will be reported on the reports for students in grades three, four, and five in 2009. Reports for students in grades six, seven, and eight will include only percent correct, not performance levels, in 2009.