



## California Modified Assessment (CMA) Fall 2010 Field Tests Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are field tests needed?

Field tests are needed to evaluate the quality and difficulty of new test questions before they are used in operational test forms. New test questions can only be properly evaluated if enough students take the field test; that's why your participation is very important to us. The purpose of field testing is *not* to evaluate student achievement.

### Why are field tests administered in the fall?

Conducting field tests in the fall allows students to demonstrate what they know when the coursework is still fresh in their minds from the previous year, but without overwhelming them during the spring testing.

### What CMA field tests are available?

- Geometry, multiple-choice
- Grade 11 English–Language Arts, multiple-choice
- Grade 12 English–Language Arts, multiple-choice

### Which students are eligible for these field tests?

All participating students must meet all of the following three criteria:

- Have an individualized education program (IEP);
- Scored *below basic* or *far below basic* in a previous CST administration. (Students may have taken the CST with modifications, or may have taken CMA test(s) previously.); and
- Are not eligible to take the CAPA.

Additionally, students must meet the following criteria for each specific test:

- For Geometry, students must be in grades nine through twelve and must have completed a Geometry course in the 2009-10 school year.
- For the English–Language Arts (ELA) field tests in grade eleven and grade twelve, students must be enrolled in the specific associated grade.

### NOTE:

Students in grades eleven and twelve who are eligible to take the CMA for Geometry field test should also take the grade-level CMA for ELA field test. Students who are taking the CMA for ELA field test for grade eleven or twelve should only take the CMA for Geometry if they completed a Geometry course in the 2009-10 school year. This CMA field test does not need to be included in the students' IEP since field tests evaluate new test questions, not the students.

### When should I administer the fall field tests?

The CMA fall field tests must be administered during the week of September 13–17, 2010. Makeup tests may be administered for students who are absent on test day but must fall within the same one-week window.

**How long will testing take and in what order should I administer each test?**

The estimated time needed for each of the three tests is 150 minutes, 50 minutes per each of the three parts. Each test consists of 70 total questions, and field-test times include 10 minutes to distribute materials, give directions, and collect materials for each part. Each student's IEP may also provide guidance in how each test is administered for that student. The three parts of each test should be administered sequentially. It's up to you when and in what order you administer the tests, as long as they are administered within the assigned one-week window.

**How will we receive test materials? What is included?**

Test materials will be shipped to school districts, which will, in turn, distribute materials to test sites. Test booklets and answer documents come individually and shrinkwrapped in packages of five. There will be one *Directions for Administration (DFA)* included with every package of multiple-choice test booklets. One copy of the *CMA Field Test District and Test Site Coordinator Manual* will be included for every test site, plus one copy for the school district.

**Where will materials be shipped?**

Materials will be shipped to school districts at the primary shipping address listed on the 2010 STAR Management System Web site as of August 15, 2010. You can view and edit this address by logging in to the STAR Management System and selecting the [Maintain/Update Profile](#) link on the left navigation bar. Districts are responsible for distributing test materials to individual test sites.

**When will field test materials arrive at school districts?**

CMA field test materials will be delivered to school districts at least one week before the testing window begins on September 13, leaving time for school districts to distribute test materials to each test site.

**Can I order more test materials?**

Yes. But keep in mind that test sites will receive an overage of approximately 10 percent of test booklets and answer documents. If a test site in your school district requires additional test booklets or any other materials, please contact the STAR Technical Assistance Center at 800-955-2954.

**When should schools and districts return materials?**

Test sites should return materials to school districts the day after testing is completed. School districts should pack and ship materials by September 24, 2010.

**Will answer documents come with student Pre-ID labels, or will I need to hand-mark student demographic information?**

Student pre-identification (Pre-ID) labels will be provided based on the roster of students identified by ETS from 2010 STAR test results. Affixing these labels to answer documents removes the need to hand-mark demographic information for each student. For students without Pre-ID labels, demographic information should be hand-marked on the answer documents.

**Can students new to my school district this year take the field test?**

Yes. We strongly encourage all your eligible students to take the field test, even if they didn't participate in your 2010 STAR administration. You'll need to hand-mark a minimal number of demographic fields for these students, since you won't receive Pre-ID labels for them.



### **What should we do with field test materials received for students who have left our school and/or district?**

Since the field test roster is based on the 2010 STAR administration, some students may be at another school within the same school district at the time of field testing. If this is the case, please forward the materials to the student's new school and hand-mark the student's information on the answer document. New student Pre-ID labels with updated school information are not necessary since field test results will not be associated with specific schools.

If the student has left the school district, securely destroy the student's Pre-ID label. Unused test materials may be given to another eligible student.

### **What accommodations and modifications will be available to students during the field test?**

No modifications are available to students taking CMA field tests, since the CMA is already a modified assessment designed to provide eligible students with additional access to an assessment based on the California content standards. Students may use the accommodations in their IEP or Section 504 plan on the field test. For further information regarding testing variations and accommodations for the CMA, please review the "Allowable Testing Variations and Accommodations for the 2010 California Modified Assessment" that is linked on the CDE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/cmastar.asp>.

Braille and large-print versions of the field tests will not be available.

### **When will the CMA be fully operational?**

The CMA is anticipated to be fully operational in 2011 if enough students participate in this final round of field testing this fall. That's why your participation is crucial.

A range of CMA tests are already operational in grades three through eleven. Visit [http://www.startest.org/faq\\_test-admin.html](http://www.startest.org/faq_test-admin.html) for a complete list.

### **What is done with the field test results?**

Field test results will be used to build robust, statistically valid operational tests. No one knows exactly how a new test question will perform until actual students attempt that question. For established operational tests, field testing new test questions is integrated into each operational test. However, when new tests are developed, a stand-alone field test such as this one is necessary in order to start an "item bank" of valid test questions for the first operational test.

### **Can we access the field test results?**

Unfortunately, field test results cannot be released, for the very same reason that field testing is necessary to begin with—statistical validity has not yet been established for these new tests, which means the results cannot be guaranteed to accurately reflect student achievement. The purpose of field testing is *not* to evaluate student achievement.