California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 16, 2024

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Proposed Revisions of the Addendum to the High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment, including General Achievement Level Descriptors; Test Blueprint; and Score Reporting Structure.

## Summary of Key Issues

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the State Board of Education (SBE) of the California Department of Education’s (CDE’s) proposed revisions of the addendum to the high-level test design (HLTD) for the California Spanish Assessment (CSA), which includes the CSA general achievement level descriptors (ALDs), CSA revised test blueprint, and the CSA score reporting structure. These proposed revisions are related to the item previously approved by the SBE at the November 2022 meeting. Whereas November 2022 Item 12 focused on the expansion to the CSA, this memorandum addresses the proposed removal of the Speaking domain from grades three through eight.

In November 2021, the SBE approved the California Assessment System contract for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) with testing contractor, ETS. The new contract includes the expansion of the Writing domain to include full write items, and the addition of the Speaking domain items for the CSA for grades three through eight and high school. The expansion of the CSA was sought to provide local educational agencies (LEAs) the ability to administer the expanded CSA for the purposes of students attaining the State Seal of Biliteracy. This new contract began on July 1, 2022.

Upon SBE approval of the Addendum to the HLTD in November 2022, ETS assessment specialists began developing new speaking and writing constructed response (CR) items. All items were aligned with the *California Common Core State Standards* *en Español* and were consistent with the goals of California’s testing program. The items were written by ETS assessment developers and trained item writers familiar with assessment development in Spanish. All items were reviewed by ETS content and editorial staff, the CDE, and a review panel composed of California educators during the item review meeting held in March 2023. In spring 2022, ETS conducted a usability pilot to confirm that the proposed “group administration” of the speaking domain could be done successfully. The usability pilot provided feedback on the following:

* Resources needed by teachers to prepare themselves and their students for test administration
* Clarity of the recording instructions for students within the test—as displayed in the system interface and authored at the item level
* Students’ interaction with the Speaking items in the Test Delivery System (TDS), including use of the response recording feature
* Importance of the sound quality of the Speaking responses in the Teacher Hand Scoring System.

Based on the feedback from the pilot, ETS produced a *Preparing for Administration* manual to support the administration of the field test items. Additionally, the training tests were revised in September 2023 to include an embedded Speaking and full-write CR item for educators to introduce their students to these item types prior to the
2023–24 administration. The newly developed writing and speaking CR items were then embedded in an operational form in preparation to be field tested during the 2023–24 operational administration.

After students are registered to take the CSA, they are randomly assigned to one of three field test forms as they log in to take the assessment. This method allows for all field test items to be equally assessed at the same time, lessening the burden on students and educators. As of July 1, 2024, 65,748 students were registered to take the CSA, with 51,438 completing the assessment. Of those registered, over 60,000 were in grades three through eight, and just over 5,000 in high school.

### Focus Groups Conducted

Prior to and during the 2023–24 administration of the CSA field test, educators from LEAs reached out to the CDE and ETS about the various concerns and challenges they faced with the CSA expansion.

As a first step to understanding these concerns and challenges, the CDE and ETS conducted focus groups primarily focused on issues affecting grades three through eight. The focus groups, held in late May 2024, included approximately 10 percent of LEAs that historically administered the CSA, including LEAs from the North, Central, and South California regions. All invited LEAs were sent a survey to complete, including those unable to attend the meetings.

#### Summary of Information Collected from the Focus Groups

The LEA focus groups shared issues faced by students while testing. For example, many students were:

* Uncomfortable speaking aloud in a classroom during state testing to record their audio responses to the Speaking CR items
* Unable to effectively operate the voice recordings for the Speaking items on their own in the TDS in the lower grade levels
* In need of additional testing time to respond to the Speaking CR items
* Experiencing technology issues that may have affected the quality of their recorded responses

While LEAs indicated the issues that affected students could be remedied over time with exposure to the training and practice tests, other issues identified by the focus group participants pertained to educators responsible for testing students. Educators cited needing additional time as their primary concern. They needed additional time to:

* Complete the mandated training for scoring Speaking CR items,
* Test all four domains (needed to produce an overall score) on the optional CSA concurrently with other prioritized state-required assessments, and
* Score the eight Speaking CR items for each individual student during the operational testing window.

In addition, based on feedback during these focus groups, most LEAs indicated that they would not continue to administer the CSA if the expansion were to proceed as currently designed due to the need for additional testing or scoring staff resources (most educators administer the ELPAC and CSA) as well as the additional time needed for training, testing, and scoring. Upon further discussion, with focus group participants indicated that eliminating the Speaking domain from the CSA expansion in grades three through eight would alleviate the additional burden on LEAs and educators, including the completion of required administration and scoring training, as well as local scoring of individual student responses. Likewise, educators indicated that high school students were the most successful in responding to the Speaking CR items in a group administration.

Next, an interest holder meeting was held in mid-June 2024 to gather input on the feedback received from the LEA focus groups. The interest holders included members from the Association of California School Administrators, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, California Charter Schools Association, Children Now, California School Boards Association, California Teachers Association, Small School District Association, California Association of Bilingual Educators, and Californians Together. The interest holders supported the proposed revisions discussed with the LEAs.

### Proposed Revisions to the California Spanish Assessment Expansion

In the next sections of this memorandum, the feedback from the focus groups and input from the interest holders have informed the proposed revisions to the Addendum to the HLTD for the CSA, which include the general ALDs, as well as the CSA test blueprint and CSA score reporting structure. Based on the information collected, the CDE recommends removing the Speaking domain for grades three through eight to lessen the burden on educators and resources as these grades have historically had the most students registered to take the CSA. Since the State Seal of Biliteracy requirements are specific to high school, the inclusion of Speaking in grades three through eight does not provide added value.

**Proposed Revised Addendum to the High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment**

The SBE originally approved the Addendum to the CSA HLTD in November 2022. The proposed revised Addendum to the CSA HLTD includes minor changes to the body of the addendum, specifically separating the tables for grades three through eight from those for the high school grade band and removing Speaking from grades three through eight. The CDE is not recommending any changes to the high school grade band, as the requirements to meet the State Seal of Biliteracy include the administration of Speaking and full-write CR items.

##### *Proposed Revised General Achievement Level Descriptors*

The purpose of the CSA general ALDs is to provide generic descriptions of student performance level expectations across three levels. These general ALDs were used to establish grade-level or grade-band specific ALDs and will be used to develop reporting ALDs that describe levels of performance to educators, students, and parents.

The CDE is proposing revisions to these general ALDs for grades three through eight to exclude the Speaking domain. The high school ALDs will remain unchanged and include all four domains originally approved by the SBE (see Attachment 1).

**Proposed California Spanish Assessment Revised Test Blueprint**

In November 2022, the SBE approved the revised test blueprint for the CSA, which provides the proposed numbers of items and points to be included in an operational assessment for each of the four language-arts domains assessed in grades three through eight and high school. As with the ALDs and score reporting structure, the CDE is proposing revisions to the test blueprint for grades three through eight to remove Speaking (see Attachment 2). The high school test blueprint will remain unchanged and will include all four domains.

#### Proposed Revised California Spanish Assessment Score Reporting Structure

The SBE approved the CSA student score reporting structure in November 2022, which includes an overall scale score with three achievement levels. This student score reporting structure included all four domains of Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. The data from the first operational administration of the CSA expansion in 2024–25 will be used to evaluate the reliability of the score reporting structure.

The CDE is proposing revisions to the score reporting structure for grades three through eight to exclude the Speaking domain (See table 1). This adjustment aims to give consistency across the lower grade levels and allow for assessing the same domains as assessed in the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts/Literacy. The CDE recommends that high school score reporting structure remain unchanged and continue to include all four domains.

Table 1. Proposed Revised California Spanish Assessment Score Reporting Structure by Domain

| **Grade Level/Band** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grades Three through Eight | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| High School | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

#### Next Steps

In September 2024, the CDE will bring the proposed revised Addendum to the HLTD for the CSA, which includes the proposed revised CSA ALDs; the proposed CSA revised test blueprint, and the proposed revised score reporting structure, to the SBE for approval.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: 2024 Proposed Revised Addendum to the High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment (11 pages)
* Attachment 2: 2024 Proposed California Spanish Assessment Revised Test Blueprint (14 pages)



# **2024 Addendum to the High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment**

**Contract #CN220002**

**Prepared for the California Department of Education by ETS**

**Presented August 16, 2024**



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## Overview

### Background

California is a state with great linguistic diversity. More than 40 percent of students in California speak a language other than English.[[1]](#footnote-2) Of these students, over 1.2 million speak Spanish.[[2]](#footnote-3) The student population in California includes students who are native speakers of Spanish and students who are learning Spanish as an additional language. California’s educational system includes instruction in Spanish in various forms. Thus, the California Spanish Assessment (CSA) was first designed and created in 2016 as a new computer-based assessment for students in grades three through eight and high school to measure students’ competency in Spanish in reading, writing mechanics, and listening. Currently, the CSA is part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System of assessments.

The purpose of this addendum is to articulate how the test design presented in the [*High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment*](https://www.caaspp-elpac.org/s/docs/CSA.high-level-test-design.docx)(hereafter referred to as the “*CSA High-Level Test Design*”), which was approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) in September 2016, has been updated to include the expansion of the writing domain and addition of a speaking domain, as approved in the *California Assessment System Scope of Work* for the 2022–27 school years. The expansion of the writing domain for all grade levels and grade bands and addition of a speaking domain for high school will allow the CSA to be used, in part, to achieve the State Seal of Biliteracy, as originally intended (pursuant to California *Education Code* Section **60640[j]**).

### Key Assumptions for the Expansion

For planning and development purposes, ETS makes the following assumptions about expanding the CSA:

1. The assessment was originally developed with a focus on reading, writing mechanics, and listening. The updated assessment will include an additional writing component for all grade levels and grade bands as well as a speaking component for high school only.
2. Field testing of the additional writing and speaking components will be handled by embedding field test items into the 2023–24 operational forms.
3. General achievement level descriptors (ALDs) will be updated as specified in [section 2](#_Revised_General_Achievement).
4. The first operational administration of the expanded assessment will occur in the school year 2024–25.
5. A standard setting process will be designed, and an educator workshop will occur after the first operational administration of the expanded assessment.
6. Interest holders’ input will be a critical component of the development process; there will be a number of opportunities to provide input on test design by interest holders throughout the test development process.

## Revised General Achievement Level Descriptors

The general ALDs are generic descriptors of student performance expectations that provide the range expected in each performance level. The descriptors provide a snapshot of student achievement in the current school year.

With the expansion of the CSA, speaking will be added to the descriptors for high school. Additionally, the word “mechanics,” a qualifier in the writing domain’s current ALD text, will be removed because the writing domain will be fully assessed after the expansion is implemented operationally.

What follows are the general ALDs for grades three through eight:

* **Level 3:** Students at Level 3 demonstrate a **high degree** of grade-appropriate Spanish literacy in reading, writing, and listening, and *are on track* for being literate in Spanish by high school graduation.
* **Level 2:** Students at Level 2 demonstrate a **moderate degree** of grade-appropriate Spanish literacy in reading, writing, and listening, but *require further development to be on track* for being literate in Spanish by high school graduation.
* **Level 1:** Students at Level 1 demonstrate a **limited degree** of grade-appropriate Spanish literacy in reading, writing, and listening, and *require substantial development* *before being considered on track* for being literate in Spanish by high school graduation.

What follows are the general ALDs for high school:

* **Level 3:** Students at Level 3 demonstrate a **high degree** of grade-appropriate Spanish literacy in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and *are on track* for being literate in Spanish by high school graduation.
* **Level 2:** Students at Level 2 demonstrate a **moderate degree** of grade-appropriate Spanish literacy in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, but *require further development to be on track* for being literate in Spanish by high school graduation.
* **Level 1:** Students at Level 1 demonstrate a **limited degree** of grade-appropriate Spanish literacy in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and *require substantial development* *before being considered on track* for being literate in Spanish by high school graduation.

## Standards and Claims

The CSA is aligned to the *California Common Core State Standards (CCSS) en Español*, which are a translated and linguistically augmented version of the *California* *CCSS for English Language Arts & Literacy*.

The *California CCSS en Español* are organized into the following domains:

* Reading standards
* Writing standards
* Speaking and listening standards
* Language standards

Using the domains as a guide for the test design, the SBE adopted the following claims for the CSA in September 2016:

* Claim for grades three through eight: Students can demonstrate progress toward a high level of competency in attaining reading/language arts skills and practices through Spanish.
* Claim for high school: Students can demonstrate a high level of competency in attaining reading/language arts skills and practices through Spanish.

The SBE also adopted the following Spanish language arts competency claims for all grade levels and the high school grade band:

* Reading: Students can read, analyze, and interpret a variety of texts and genres through Spanish.
* Writing: Students can write texts for a range of purposes and audiences to accurately and convincingly present, describe, and explain ideas through Spanish.
* Listening: Students can comprehend spoken Spanish in a range of contexts.

With the expansion of the CSA into the speaking domain for high school, ETS recommends the addition of the following claim for the high school grade band:

* Speaking: Students can speak Spanish to accurately and convincingly present, describe, and explain ideas for a range of purposes and audiences.

## Item Development

### New Item Development

ETS assessment specialists will develop samples of new item types for speaking and writing for the California Department of Education’s (CDE’s) review and approval. These samples will be used to update the item specifications and training materials in collaboration with the CDE. The new item specifications will be used when ETS begins development work on items for all domains in the assessment.

All items will be aligned with the *California CCSS* *en Español* and consistent with the goals of California’s testing program. Items will be written by ETS assessment developers and trained item writers familiar with assessment development in Spanish and specifically trained for the CSA as well as California educators who have received item writer training, including updated training on new item types for speaking and writing. All items will be reviewed by ETS content and editorial staff, the CDE, and a review panel composed of California educators. ETS will leverage the current best practices developed on other California assessments that feature constructed responses (CRs) when designing CSA speaking and writing items.

### Item Types

ETS will develop machine-scorable and human-scorable item types for computer-based administration by leveraging the most current assessment innovations conducive to assessing reading/language arts skills.

The assessment includes both stand-alone items and passage-based items; all items may contain a stimulus (e.g., a passage, video, or image). Some of the items have technology-enhanced interactions. These interactions include having a student respond by typing an answer, completing a table, selecting from a drop-down list, etc.

The expansion of the CSA will include the administration of human-scorable items for writing and speaking, which will necessitate the development of scoring rubrics. The use of artificial intelligence to score written responses will be explored, as advances in this field are well underway.

## Test Design

### Test Format

The expanded CSA will continue to be a linear test delivered online under untimed testing conditions. It will be untimed to allow students sufficient time to complete the test. Testing time estimates will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary and provided to local educational agencies (LEAs) for scheduling purposes. In view of California’s desire for a Spanish reading/language arts assessment that measures a high level of competency demonstrated by students who are on track for exiting public instruction as biliterate graduates, the high school CSA will continue to feature complex passages and tasks that can aid local decisions about eligibility for the State Seal of Biliteracy.

### Test Development Stages

To support the 2024–25 operational launch of the expanded CSA, several activities will take place over a three-year time span:

* 2022–23: Test design, blueprint development, and item and task development
* 2023–24: Field testing of full-write and speaking items and prompts
* 2024–25: First operational administration of full-write and speaking prompts; standard setting

### Field Test Design

Forms with embedded field test items, including the new speaking and writing items, will be administered for grades three, four, five, six, seven, and eight, and for high school, during the 2023–24 school year. Table 1 shows a tentative embedded field test design for grades three through eight.

Table 1. Embedded Field Test Design, Grades Three Through Eight

| Item Type | # of Items Taken by Each Student | Estimated Testing Time for Each Student |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Speaking CR items (human-scored) | 8 items | 60–90 minutes |
| Full-write CR items (human-scored) | 1 item | 45–60 minutes |
| Writing non-CR items (machine-scored) | 1 item | 1–2 minutes |
| **Estimated Total:** | **10 items** | **106–152 minutes** |

Table 2 shows a tentative embedded field test design for high school.

Table 2. Embedded Field Test Design, High School

| Item Type | # of Items Taken by Each Student | Estimated Testing Time for Each Student |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Speaking CR items (human-scored) | 12 items | 60–90 minutes |
| Full-write CR items (human-scored) | 2 items | 60–80 minutes |
| Writing non-CR items (machine-scored) | 2 items | 1–2 minutes |
| **Estimated Total:** | **16 items** | **121–172 minutes** |

The field testing of CR items entails an average increase in overall testing time of two hours for grades three through eight and two and one half hours for high school, based on the estimates in table 1 and table 2. Therefore, if the CSA before the expansion took one and one half to two hours, with the expansion, the overall field testing time would potentially range from four to four and one half hours.

ETS is committed to field-testing the number of items shown in table 3.

Table 3. Number of Embedded Field Test Items

| Item Type | # of Items Field-Tested per Grade, Grades 3–8 | # of Items Field-Tested, High School |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Speaking CR items (human-scored) | 24 items | 36 items |
| Full-write CR items (human-scored) | 3 items | 6 items |
| Writing non-CR items (machine-scored) | 3 items | 6 items |
| **Estimated Total:** | **30 items** | **48 items** |

## Psychometric Considerations

### Embedded Field Test

As noted in [section 5C](#_Field_Test_Design), the 2023–24 CSA operational forms will include an embedded field test design for the field testing of the new writing and speaking CR items. Under this design, the newly developed writing and speaking CR items are embedded in an operational form and are analyzed with other operational items in the form. Therefore, the new CR items will be linked to the operational base scale through psychometric analysis of calibration and linking. Logistically, the embedded field test is a cost-efficient way to collect data for the field test items, which does not require an additional off-season test for students and test administrators.

The spring 2024 embedded field test will feel like the operational 2025 year (window is the same, form breakdown will be similar to operational, effort will be there, good testing experience for students with new item type). ETS will have the same test-taking population. In addition, the embedded field testing of items can occur on an ongoing basis for each operational test administration to support a mutually agreed upon refresh rate. All newly developed writing and speaking CR items can be placed and spiraled at the student level to achieve random samples for analysis.

Psychometric analysis and linking procedures can be accomplished with an embedded field test design. Item response theory (IRT) calibration and linking procedures can be used to calibrate, link, and scale the new CR items to the operational base scale.

### Field Testing Sample Size and Threshold

As an optional assessment, the key challenge for a CSA field test administration at the various grade levels and the high school grade band is the small sample size. In general, larger test samples occur in the lower grades three through five. As enrollment in Spanish instruction attenuates at the middle and upper grades, the test-taking sample size decreases as the grade level increases. In the embedded field test model, the psychometric threshold of the testing sample for item analysis is the same for each grade level and the high school grade band, (e.g., a minimum of 200 students per item and desirable 300 students per item per form, excluding the accommodated form). To receive reliable analysis results, ETS would adhere to this threshold of the sample size for item analysis for the field tests of new writing and speaking CR items.

As this threshold can be met easily in the lower grades and might be challenging in higher grades, especially in the high school grade band, it is possible to increase the number of field test items in each version of the regular forms and reduce the number of versions in high school to support the goal that items that are field-tested have sufficient student responses to be analyzed as the minimum and desirable student counts mentioned previously. For example, three versions of a regular form may be appropriate in grades three through eight, each containing one CR item for writing and speaking. In the high school grade band, two versions of a regular form could be administered, each containing two CR items in each domain.

### Psychometric Analyses

#### Classical Item Analysis and Differential Item Functioning

Classical item analysis will be conducted to evaluate the performance of all newly developed writing and speaking CR items with respect to item difficulty and item discrimination. The following flagging rules for these statistics will be used to identify items that are not performing as expected:

* A *p*-value (or mean of item score) less than 0.2 or greater than 0.95
* An item with a polyserial correlation less than 0.20
* An item with nonresponse rates greater than 5 percent
* An item that has less than 3 percent of the students at any score level (e.g., 0, 1, 2)

Differential item functioning (DIF) analyses will be performed on the newly developed writing CR items and speaking CR items. Because of the CSA sample size, only gender DIF will be analyzed and C-DIF will be flagged. If fewer than 200 students respond to a CR field test item, item analysis and DIF analysis may not be conducted.

#### Interrater Reliability Analysis

The new writing and speaking CR items will be scored by a single rater with 10 percent back-reading, which means 10 percent of the responses to CR items will be scored independently by a second rater. Data from items with two raters will be used to evaluate interrater reliability of scoring. The statistics for interrater reliability include the percentage of perfect agreement and adjacent agreement between the two raters, and the quadratic weighted kappa statistic (QWK). QWK is a statistic used to measure the degree of association between two ratings with values ranging from 0.0 (indicating no agreement) to 1.0 (indicating perfect agreement).

CR items will be flagged if any of the following conditions occur:

* Adjacent plus exact agreement < 0.80
* QWK < 0.70

#### Dimensionality Analysis

When writing and speaking CR items are included in the test form, it is unknown whether the unidimensional assumption can be held. Thus, ETS will conduct a dimensionality analysis to examine whether the CSA is unidimensional or multidimensional. Results of the study will inform how the items should be calibrated and scores be reported.

#### Item Response Model Analysis

IRT models will be continuously used to analyze writing and speaking CR items and the CSA forms. The selection of the specific IRT models will be based on the results of the aforementioned dimensionality analysis. Furthermore, even if the dimensionality analysis confirms unidimensional features of the CSA scale, the continuity of the current scale established in 2019 will be investigated carefully. Scale scores and achievement levels will be produced and reported.

## Appendix A: High-Level Test Development Timeline

Table 4. High-Level Test Development Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |
| SBE action on the *Addendum to the* *High-Level Test Design for the California Spanish Assessment*, revised test blueprints, and general ALDs | September 2022 |
| Administration of the embedded field test | 2023–24 administration |
| Administration of the operational test of the newly expanded CSA  | 2024–25 administration  |
| Dimensionality study | Spring and summer 2025 |
| Standard setting | Summer 2025 |
| SBE action on the threshold scores and reporting ALDs | September 2025 |



**2024 California Spanish Assessment Revised Test Blueprint**

**Contract #CN220002**

**Prepared for the California Department of Education by ETS**

**August 16, 2024**



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**Introduction to the Revised Test Blueprint for the California Spanish Assessment**

The revised test blueprint for the California Spanish Assessment (CSA) updates the CSA test blueprint that was originally approved in November 2017 and revised in July 2022. This revised test blueprint for the CSA provides the numbers of items and points to be included in an operational assessment for each of the four language-arts domains assessed in grades three through eight and high school. Note, however, that the numbers of items and points are subject to revision in response to statistical analyses of the new writing constructed-response (CR) item types in grades three through eight; and the new writing and speaking CR item types in high school after their first field test and first operational uses.

All items are aligned with the [*California Common Core State Standards en Español*](https://commoncore-espanol.sdcoe.net/CaCCSS-en-Espanol/SLA-Literacy)*,* which is a translated and linguistically augmented version of the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy*.

The revised test blueprint is represented in the tables presented in this document. [Table 1](#Table_1) and [table 2](#Table_2) provide an overview to clarify the proportions of the blueprint assigned to each domain. After these overview tables, [table 3](#Table_3) through [table 6](#Table_6) provide specifics enumerating further content categories and subcategories of the domains.

Table 1 and [table 2](#Table_2) are organized by the four domains assessed: reading, writing, listening, and, for high school only, speaking. For each domain, a corresponding claim is provided in the first column. Other columns in the overview table are as follows:

* Second column: *Total Items by Claim*
* Third column: *Percent of Items by Claim*
* Fourth column: *Total Score Points by Claim*
* Fifth column: *Percent of Score Points by Claim*

[Table 3](#Table_3) through [table 6](#Table_6) of the revised test blueprint take the same information to a granular level, providing the proportions of testing standards that cover the content categories and subcategories on an operational assessment. The columns in [table 3](#Table_3) through [table 6](#Table_6) are as follows:

* First column: *Claim and Content Categories*
* Second column: *Total Items by Content Category* (*Subcategory for* [table 6](#Table_6))
* Third column: *Selected Response (SR) or CR*
* Fourth column: *Total Score Points by Content Category* (*Subcategory for* [table 6](#Table_6))

**Note:** SR items are machine-scored and CR items elicit student responses, which are human-scored.

Each grade-level assessment has more than 50 testable standards at its disposal, so [table 7](#Table_7) through [table 9](#Table_9) delineate specific groups of testing standards to be used for each content category and subcategory. Each table summarizes a different grade span.

Keep in mind that the CSA tests high school grade levels together in one assessment. The high school CSA uses two sets of the *California Common Core State Standards en Español*: the standards designated as “9–10,” for grades nine and ten, as well as the standards designated “11–12,” for grades eleven and twelve. Both sets of standards are eligible for use on the high school CSA. The columns in the testing standards tables are as follows:

* First column: *Claim and Content Categories and Subcategories*
* Other columns: Grade levels or grade band tested

**Revised Test Blueprint for the CSA**

**Blueprint Overview**

Note that the original wording of the writing claim was amended to acknowledge that the CSA test blueprint did not feature CR items. With the recent addition of full-writes to the test blueprint, the interim wording—“**Writing Mechanics Claim: Students can revise** writing products…”—has reverted to its original text and is restored in table 1 and [table 2](#Table_2).

Note, also, the following about [table 1](#Table_1):

Score Point Range by Claim column—The ranges of score points by claim provide the minimum and maximum number of score points allowed at each claim. Different combinations of score points across claims are possible. The combined total number of score points must fall within the range of 61–66 points, which is the approved range for the entire form.

**Table 1. Blueprint Overview—California Spanish Assessment, Grade Span Three Through Eight, Operational Forms, 2024–25**

| **Claim and Domain** | **Total Items by Claim** | **Percent of Items by Claim** | **Score Point Range by Claim** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reading Claim:** Students can read, analyze, and interpret a variety of texts and genres through Spanish. | 24 | 50% | 27–35 |
| **Writing Claim:** Students can write texts for a range of purposes and audiences in order to accurately and convincingly present, describe, and explain ideas through Spanish. | 12 | 25% | 19–22 |
| **Listening Claim:** Students can comprehend spoken Spanish in a range of contexts. | 12 | 25% | 15–17 |
| **TOTAL:** | **48** | **100%** | **61–66** |

Note the following about [table 2](#Table_2):

Score Point Range by Claim column—The ranges of score points by claim provide the minimum and maximum number of score points allowed at each claim. Different combinations of score points across claims are possible. The combined total number of score points must fall within the range of 76–82 points, which is the approved range for the entire form.

**Table 2. Blueprint Overview—California Spanish Assessment, High School, Operational Forms, 2024–25**

| **Claim and Domain** | **Total Items by Claim** | **Percent of Items by Claim** | **Score Point Range by Claim** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reading Claim:** Students can read, analyze, and interpret a variety of texts and genres through Spanish. | 24 | 42.9% | 27–35 |
| **Writing Claim:** Students can write texts for a range of purposes and audiences in order to accurately and convincingly present, describe, and explain ideas through Spanish. | 12 | 21.4% | 19–22 |
| **Listening Claim:** Students can comprehend spoken Spanish in a range of contexts. | 12 | 21.4% | 15–17 |
| **Speaking Claim:** Students can speak Spanish to accurately and convincingly present, describe, and explain ideas for a range of purposes and audiences. | 8 | 14.3% | 15–16 |
| **TOTAL:** | **56** | **100%** | **76–82** |

**Grade Span: Three Through Five**

Note the following about [table 3](#Table_3):

* SR items are machine-scored.
* CR items elicit student responses and are human-scored.
* In the Score Point Range by Content Category column, the ranges of score points by content category provide the minimum and maximum number of score points allowed at each content category. Different combinations of score points across content categories are possible. The combined total number of score points must fall within the range of 61–66 points, which is the approved range for the entire form.
* The Item Range by Content Category will total 48 items, of which 47 are SR and 1 is CR, and the Score Point Range by Content Category will total between 61–66 points.

**Table 3. Blueprint Table—Content Categories, California Spanish Assessment, Grade Span Three Through Five, Operational Forms, 2024–25**

| **Claim and Content Categories** | **Item Range by Content Category** | **SR or CR** | **Score Point Range by Content Category** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary (subcategories in [table 6](#Table_6)) | 6–9 | SR | 7–11 |
| Reading: Informational (subcategories in [table 6](#Table_6)) | 6–9 | SR | 7–11 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 8–10 | SR | 10–13 |
| Writing: Foundational Mechanics and Conventions | 6–8 | SR | 7–10 |
| Writing: Revising and Editing | 3–5 | SR | 4–8 |
| Writing: Written Expression | 1 | CR | 4 |
| Listening: Listening Comprehension | 12 | SR | 15–17 |

**Grade Span: Six Through Eight**

Note the following about [table 4](#Table_4):

* SR items are machine-scored.
* CR items elicit student responses and are human-scored.
* In the Score Point Range by Content Category column, the ranges of score points by content category provide the minimum and maximum number of score points allowed at each content category. Different combinations of score points across content categories are possible. The combined total number of score points must fall within the range of 61–66 points, which is the approved range for the entire form.
* The Item Range by Content Category will total 48 items, of which 47 are SR and 1 is CR, and the Score Point Range by Content Category will total between 61–66 points.

**Table 4. Blueprint Table—Content Categories, California Spanish Assessment, Grade Span Six Through Eight, Operational Forms, 2024–25**

| **Claim and Content Categories** | **Item Range by Content Category** | **SR or CR** | **Score Point Range by Content Category** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary (subcategories in [table 6](#Table_6)) | 6–9 | SR | 7–11 |
| Reading: Informational (subcategories in [table 6](#Table_6)) | 6–9 | SR | 7–11 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 8–10 | SR | 10–13 |
| Writing: Mechanics and Conventions | 4–7 | SR | 5–9 |
| Writing: Revising and Editing | 4–7 | SR | 5–9 |
| Writing: Written Expression | 1 | CR | 4 |
| Listening: Listening Comprehension | 12 | SR | 15–17 |

**Grade Span: High School**

Note the following about [table 5](#Table_5):

* SR items are machine-scored.
* CR items elicit student responses and are human-scored.
* In the Score Point Range by Content Category column, the ranges of score points by content category provide the minimum and maximum number of score points allowed at each content category. Different combinations of score points across content categories are possible. The combined total number of score points must fall within the range of 76–82 points, which is the approved range for the entire form.
* The Item Range by Content Category will total 56 items, of which 47 are SR and 9 are CR, and the Score Point Range by Content Category will total between 76–82 points.

**Table 5. Blueprint Table—Content Categories, California Spanish Assessment, High School, Operational Forms,
2024–25**

| **Claim and Content Categories** | **Item Range by Content Category** | **SR or CR** | **Score Point Range by Content Category** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary (subcategories in [table 6](#Table_6)) | 6–9 | SR | 7–11 |
| Reading: Informational (subcategories in [table 6](#Table_6)) | 6–9 | SR | 7–11 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 8–10 | SR | 10–13 |
| Writing: Mechanics and Conventions | 4–7 | SR | 5–9 |
| Writing: Revising and Editing | 4–7 | SR | 5–9 |
| Writing: Written Expression | 1 | CR | 4 |
| Listening: Listening Comprehension | 12 | SR | 15–17 |
| Speaking: Spoken Expression | 8 | CR | 15–16 |

**Reading Subcategories**

Note the following about [table 6](#Table_6):

* SR items are machine-scored.
* In the Score Point Range by Content Subcategory column, the ranges of score points by content subcategory provide the minimum and maximum number of score points allowed at each content subcategory. Different combinations of score points across content subcategories are possible. The combined total number of score points must fall within the range of 27–35 points, which is the approved range for the entire reading claim.
* The Item Range by Content Subcategory will total 24 items, all of which are SR, and the Total Score Points by Content Subcategory will total between 27–35 points.

**Table 6. Blueprint Table—Reading Subcategories, California Spanish Assessment, All Grade Levels, Operational Forms, 2024–25**

| **Claim and Content Subcategories** | **Item Range by Content Subcategory** | **SR or CR** | **Score Point Range by Content Subcategory** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary—Key Ideas and Details | 4–6 | SR | 5–7 |
| Reading: Literary—Craft and Structure | 1–2 | SR | 1–3 |
| Reading: Literary—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 1–2 | SR | 1–3 |
| Reading: Informational—Key Ideas and Details | 4–6 | SR | 5–7 |
| Reading: Informational—Craft and Structure | 1–2 | SR | 1–3 |
| Reading: Informational—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 1–2 | SR | 1–3 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 8–10 | SR | 10–13 |

**California Common Core State Standards en Español Sampling**

**Grade Span: Three Through Five**

Note that many standards have contributory standards. For instance, in grade four, Language Standard 4.L.2 deals with conventions and Standard 4.L.2a deals specifically with capitalization. While Standard 4.L.2a is not mentioned in [table 7](#Table_7), it is incorporated under 4.L.2.

**Table 7. *California Common Core State Standards en Español* Sampling by Content Categories and Subcategories, California Spanish Assessment, Grade Span Three Through Five**

| **Claim and Content Categories and Subcategories** | **Grade Three** | **Grade Four** | **Grade Five** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary—Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.1, 3.RL.2, 3.RL.3 | 4.RL.1, 4.RL.2, 4.RL.3 | 5.RL.1, 5.RL.2, 5.RL.3 |
| Reading: Literary—Craft and Structure | 3.RL.5, 3.RL.6 | 4.RL.5, 4.RL.6 | 5.RL.5, 5.RL.6 |
| Reading: Literary—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RL.7, 3.RL.9 | 4.RL.7, 4.RL.9 | 5.RL.7, 5.RL.9 |
| Reading: Informational—Key Ideas and Details | 3.RI.1, 3.RI.2, 3.RI.3 | 4.RI.1, 4.RI.2, 4.RI.3 | 5.RI.1, 5.RI.2, 5.RI.3 |
| Reading: Informational—Craft and Structure | 3.RI.5, 3.RI.6 | 4.RI.5, 4.RI.6 | 5.RI.5, 5.RI.6 |
| Reading: Informational—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RI.7, 3.RI.8, 3.RI.9 | 4.RI.7, 4.RI.8, 4.RI.9 | 5.RI.7, 5.RI.8, 5.RI.9 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 3.RL.4, 3.RI.43.L.4, 3.L.5, 3.L.6  | 4.RL.4, 4.RI.44.L.4, 4.L.5, 4.L.6  | 5.RL.4, 5.RI.45.L.4, 5.L.5, 5.L.6  |
| Writing: Foundational Mechanics and Conventions | 3.RF.33.L.1, 3.L.2, 3.L.3 | 4.RF.3 4.L.1, 4.L.2, 4.L.3 | 5.RF.35.L.1, 5.L.2, 5.L.3 |
| Writing: Revising and Editing | 3.W.1, 3.W.2, 3.W.3 | 4.W.1, 4.W.2, 4.W.3 | 5.W.1, 5.W.2, 5.W.3 |
| Writing: Written Expression | 3.W standards | 4.W standards | 5.W standards |
| Listening: Listening Comprehension | 3.SL.2, 3.SL.3 | 4.SL.2, 4.SL.3 | 5.SL.2, 5.SL.3 |

**Grade Span: Six Through Eight**

Note that many standards have contributory standards. For instance, in grade eight, Language Standard 8.L.2 deals with conventions and Standard 8.L.2a deals specifically with punctuation indicating a pause or break. While Standard 8.L.2a is not mentioned in [table 8](#Table_8), it is incorporated under 8.L.2.

**Table 8. *California Common Core State Standards en Español* Sampling by Content Categories and Subcategories, California Spanish Assessment, Grade Span Six Through Eight**

| **Claim and Content Categories and Subcategories** | **Grade Six** | **Grade Seven** | **Grade Eight** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary—Key Ideas and Details | 6.RL.1, 6.RL.2, 6.RL.3 | 7.RL.1, 7.RL.2, 7.RL.3 | 8.RL.1, 8.RL.2, 8.RL.3 |
| Reading: Literary—Craft and Structure | 6.RL.5, 6.RL.6 | 7.RL.5, 7.RL.6 | 8.RL.5, 8.RL.6 |
| Reading: Literary—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 6.RL.7, 6.RL.9 | 7.RL.7, 7.RL.9 | 8.RL.7, 8.RL.9 |
| Reading: Informational—Key Ideas and Details | 6.RI.1, 6.RI.2, 6.RI.3 | 7.RI.1, 7.RI.2, 7.RI.3 | 8.RI.1, 8.RI.2, 8.RI.3 |
| Reading: Informational—Craft and Structure | 6.RI.5, 6.RI.5a, 6.RI.6 | 7.RI.5, 7.RI.5a, 7.RI.6 | 8.RI.5, 8.RI.5a, 8.RI.6 |
| Reading: Informational—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 6.RI.7, 6.RI.8, 6.RI.9 | 7.RI.7, 7.RI.8, 7.RI.9 | 8.RI.7, 8.RI.8, 8.RI.9 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 6.RL.4, 6.RI.46.L.4, 6.L.5, 6.L.6  | 7.RL.4, 7.RI.47.L.4, 7.L.5, 7.L.6  | 8.RL.4, 8.RI.48.L.4, 8.L.5, 8.L.6  |
| Writing: Mechanics and Conventions | 6.L.1, 6.L.2, 6.L.3 | 7.L.1, 7.L.2, 7.L.3 | 8.L.1, 8.L.2, 8.L.3 |
| Writing: Revising and Editing | 6.W.1, 6.W.2, 6.W.3 | 7.W.1, 7.W.2, 7.W.3 | 8.W.1, 8.W.2, 8.W.3 |
| Writing: Written Expression | 6.W standards | 7.W standards | 8.W standards |
| Listening: Listening Comprehension | 6.SL.2, 6.SL.3 | 7.SL.2, 7.SL.3 | 8.SL.2, 8.SL.3 |

**Grade Band: High School**

Note that many standards have contributory standards. For instance, Language Standard 9–10.L.2 deals with conventions and Standard 9–10.L.2a deals specifically with parallel structure. While Standard 9–10.L.2a is not mentioned in [table 9](#Table_9), it is incorporated under 9–10.L.2.

**Table 9. *California Common Core State Standards en Español* Sampling by Content Categories and Subcategories, California Spanish Assessment, High School**

| **Claim and Content Categories and Subcategories** | **High School** |
| --- | --- |
| Reading: Literary—Key Ideas and Details | 9–10.RL.1, 9–10.RL.2, 9–10.RL.3 11–12.RL.1, 11–12.RL.2, 11–12.RL.3 |
| Reading: Literary—Craft and Structure | 9–10.RL.5, 9–10.RL.611–12.RL.5, 11–12.RL.6 |
| Reading: Literary—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 9–10.RL.7, 9–10.RL.9 11–12.RL.7, 11–12.RL.9 |
| Reading: Informational—Key Ideas and Details | 9–10.RI.1, 9–10.RI.2, 9–10.RI.311–12.RI.1, 11–12.RI.2, 11–12.RI.3 |
| Reading: Informational—Craft and Structure | 9–10.RI.5, 9–10.RI.5a, 9–10.RI.6 11–12.RI.5, 11–12.RI.5a, 11–12.RI.6 |
| Reading: Informational—Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 9–10.RI.7, 9–10.RI.8, 9–10.RI.9 11–12.RI.7, 11–12.RI.8, 11–12.RI.9 |
| Reading: Vocabulary and Meaning | 9–10.RL.4, 9–10.RI.4, 9–10.L.4, 9–10.L.5, 9–10.L.611–12.RL.4, 11–12.RI.4, 11–12.L.4, 11–12.L.5, 11–12.L.6  |
| Writing: Mechanics and Conventions | 9–10.L.1, 9–10.L.2, 9–10.L.3 11–12.L.1, 11–12.L.2, 11–12.L.3 |
| Writing: Revising and Editing | 9–10.W.1, 9–10.W.2, 9–10.W.3  11–12.W.1, 11–12.W.2, 11–12.W.3 |
| Writing: Written Expression | 9–10.W standards 11–12.W standards |
| Listening: Listening Comprehension | 9–10.SL.2, 9–10.SL.3 11–12.SL.2, 11–12.SL.3 |
| Speaking: Spoken Expression | 9–10.SL standards 11–12.SL standards |

1. California Department of Education, DataQuest, Language Census Data for 2012–13 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. EDFacts/California Consolidated State Performance Report, 2012–13 and 2013–14 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)