

Response Options for Alternate Assessments

You Are the Expert—You Know Your Students Best!

Students assigned to take alternate assessments comprise a diverse population with a variety of needs, skills, and abilities. Decisions on how to administer a test to this population should be informed by the test examiner's knowledge of the individual student. Educators who work with this student population best understand their students' needs. This document provides test examiners with guidance on the following response options, which are available in the test delivery system for the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science and the Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (Alternate ELPAC).



Pause and Resume

The **Pause and Resume** option is for use when a student is nonresponsive to a test question, but the test examiner believes the student **may** engage with the question at a future time. The test examiner may offer the student a break and resume the test at a later time. This option is available for use as many times as necessary, even over multiple days.



Mark as No Response

The **Mark as No Response** option is for use when a student is nonresponsive to a test question, and the test examiner believes the student **may not** engage with the question at a future time. The test examiner chooses this option if they **presented** the question (i.e., they read the question and the *Directions for Administration [DFA]* script) to the student but the student did not engage.

Tip: To quickly identify which questions have been marked as “no response,” simply select the “Mark for Review” feature (in addition to “Mark as No Response”) in the context menu for each question; doing so will flag those questions on the review screen.



Skip Using the “Next” Button

The **Skip** option is available as a final option, when a student has been nonresponsive to multiple questions. The test examiner chooses this option only if they have **not** presented the question to the student. In this scenario, the test examiner determines whether the student will reengage in any further questions on the test. If the test examiner believes the student will not engage in any further questions, the test examiner may use the **Skip** option to advance to the end and submit the test.

Tip: Be sure to complete the minimum participation requirements as noted in the *DFAs* before using the **Skip** option.

Test Examiner Decision Matrix

Question Presented to Student?	Student Response	Test Examiner Evaluation	Testing Scenario
Yes	Student engages with the question.	Test examiner determines that the student is able to continue the assessment.	Enter response and continue to the next question.
Yes	Student does not engage with the question.	Test examiner determines that the student needs a break but may reengage with the question later.	Pause and Resume later.
Yes	Student does not engage with the question.	Test examiner determines that the student is not going to engage with the question.	Mark as No Response. Select “Mark for Review” to flag the item and return to the item later.
No	Student does not provide a response because the student was not presented the test question.	Test examiner determines that the student is not going to engage with the question.	Skip the question. Determine whether the student will reengage in any further questions. If not, Skip to end of test and submit. (Use this option as a last resort.)

Final Thoughts

Before submitting the test, the text examiner should consider whether the student has been given the time and opportunity to provide a meaningful response for each question. Choosing the **Skip** option to end the test should be done only after multiple opportunities have been provided to the student to show what they know and can do on the test. Keep in mind that when administering alternate assessments, you are the expert and know your students best!

Note: The **Mark as No Response** option is available only for the Alternate ELPAC and CAA for Science tests at this time.

