

# Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

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# A Balanced Assessment System

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness



**Summative assessments**  
Benchmarked to college and career readiness

**Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning**

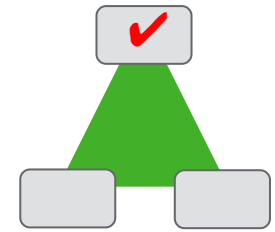


All students leave high school college and career ready

Teacher resources for **formative assessment practices** to improve instruction

**Interim assessments**  
Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback

# Summative Assessments for Accountability



## Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) Portion

- Built on solid technology
- Coverage of full breadth/depth of Common Core
- Precise assessment of all students

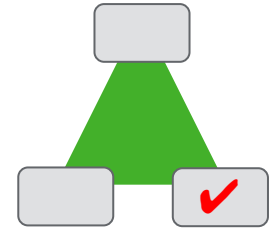
## Performance Task (PT) Portion

- Deeper learning with thematic and scenario-based tasks
- Real-world problems aligned to Common Core
- PT scores combined with CAT for overall score

## Setting Performance Standards (Cut Scores)

- K-12, higher ed, business, and policymakers part of decision-making
- Broad review of “Achievement Level Descriptors”
- Field testing includes PISA, TIMSS, NAEP items
- Longitudinal data systems used for triangulation

# Interim Assessments to Signal Improvement



## Flexible

- Non-Secure
- Timing and frequency are locally determined
- Interim test-builder creates aligned assessments

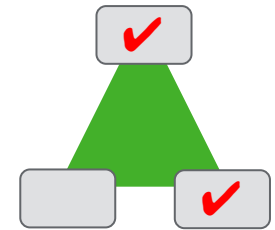
## Supports Proficiency Based Instruction

- Teachers can match assessments with scope and sequence
- Teachers can review student responses
- Teachers can score student responses

## Authentic Measures

- Includes full range of item types
- Uses the same scale as the Summative Assessment
- Includes performance assessments

# Summative and Interim Use of Computer Adaptive



Faster results

- Turnaround time is significantly reduced

Shorter test length

- Fewer questions compared to fixed form tests

Increased precision

- Improved measures of student growth over time

Tailored to student ability

- Item difficulty based on student responses

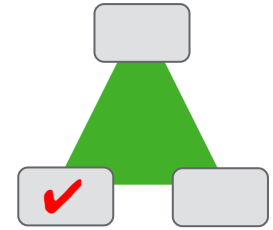
Greater security

- Large item pool means not all students receive the same questions

Mature technology

- GMAT, GRE, COMPASS (ACT), Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

# Formative Tools for Classroom- Based Assessment Practices



## Improving Instruction

- Tools/materials for Classroom-based Assessments
- Fully aligned to Common Core State Standards
- Available for in-service and pre-service development

## Pooling Resources

- Access to the best resources available
- Collaborate with other states on special projects
- Professional social networking across the Consortium
- Tools to evaluate publishers' tests

# K-12 Teacher Involvement



- Support for implementation of the Common Core State Standards (2011-12)
- Write and review items/tasks for the for the pilot test (2012-13) and field test (2013-14)
- Development of teacher leader teams in each state (2012-14)
- Evaluate formative assessment practices and curriculum tools for inclusion in digital library (2013-14)
- Score portions of the interim and summative assessments (2014-15 and beyond)

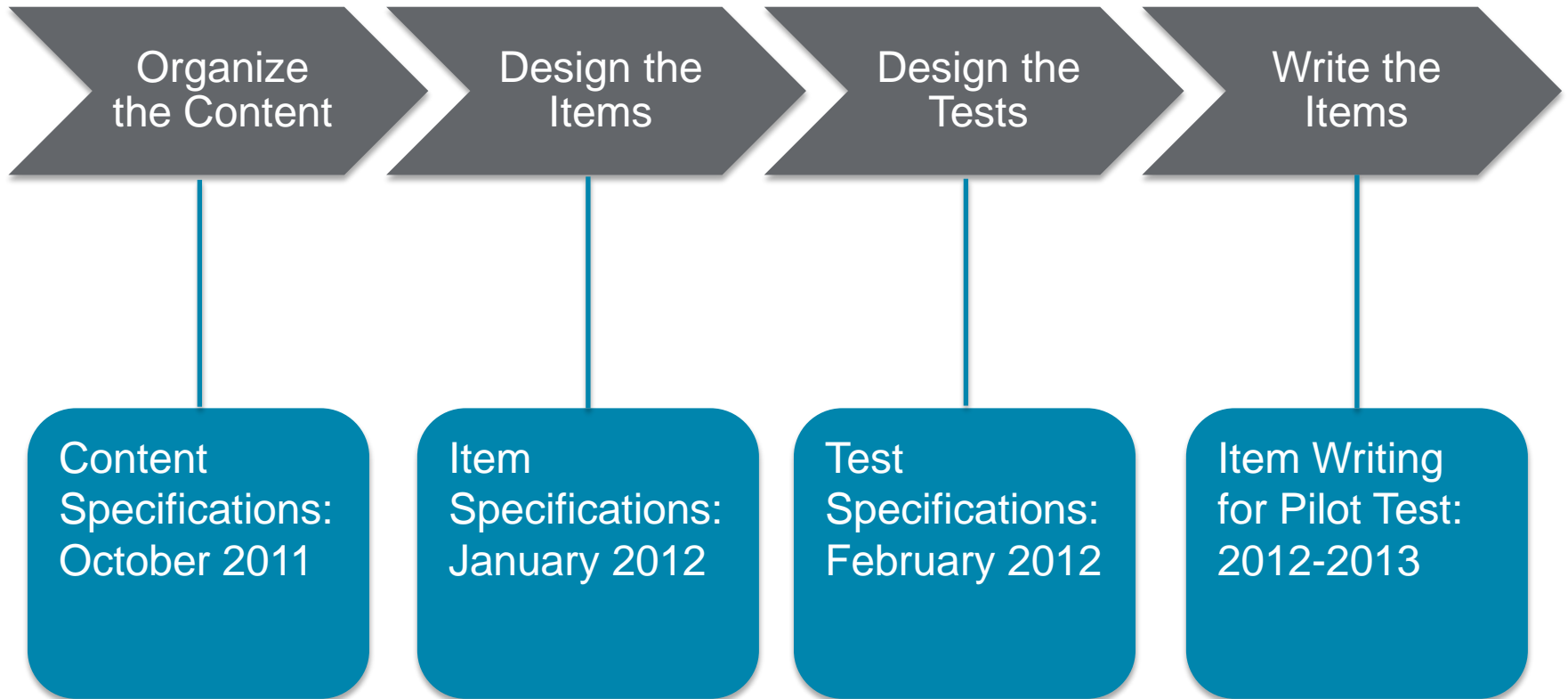
# Smarter Balanced Assessments

Item and Task Development





# Item and Test Design



# Item Development and Research

- **Cognitive Labs Conducted this summer**
  - Testing innovative item types and access strategies
- **Small Scale Trials Underway**
  - Empirically Testing Specific Item/Task Types
  - Testing Artificial Intelligence Scoring
- **Pilot Item Writing Underway**
  - Educators and professional item writers used
  - All items reviewed for Content, Bias/Sensitivity, and Accessibility

# Smarter Balanced Item/Task Types

- **Selected Response**
- **Constructed Response**
- **Technology Enhanced**
- **Performance Task**

# Sample Items and Tasks Landing Page

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>

- Entry point for sample items/tasks

- Accessed from “Assessments” menu

- Provides context for item/task development

- Links to:

- Mathematics and ELA/literacy sample items
- Feedback form
- Assessment Claims

The screenshot shows the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Contact Us, and Member States Login. Below this is a search bar and a 'Stay Connected' button. A horizontal menu contains categories: ABOUT, SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS, K-12 EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, PARENTS & STUDENTS, and RESOURCES & EVENTS. The main content area features a large image of a smiling man in a blue shirt, with the heading 'Sample Items and Performance Tasks'. Below the image is a quote: 'Smarter Balanced sample items illustrate the rigor and complexity of the English language arts/literacy and mathematics items and performance tasks students will encounter on the Consortium's next-generation assessments.' Two paragraphs of text follow, explaining the purpose of the sample items and tasks. On the right side, there is a Twitter widget with a tweet from the Policy Coordinator Sue Gendron about an upcoming webinar. Below the Twitter widget is an FAQ section with three questions and answers.

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ABOUT SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS K-12 EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION PARENTS & STUDENTS RESOURCES & EVENTS

## Sample Items and Performance Tasks

*Smarter Balanced sample items illustrate the rigor and complexity of the English language arts/literacy and mathematics items and performance tasks students will encounter on the Consortium's next-generation assessments.*

The sample items and performance tasks are intended to help teachers, administrators, and policymakers implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and preparing for next-generation assessments. They provide an early look into the depth of understanding of the CCSS that will be measured by the Smarter Balanced assessment system. While the items and tasks are not intended to be used as sample tests, educators can use them to begin planning the shifts in instruction that will be required to help students meet the demands of the new assessments.

The sample items and tasks can be viewed by grade band or content focus. They showcase the variety of item types—including technology-enhanced items and performance tasks—that will be included in the Smarter Balanced assessment system. In addition, items illustrating the connections across grades within the CCSS—as well as the range of student achievement within a computer adaptive test—are also available. Most constructed-response and technology-enhanced items can be scored automatically, and many items include downloadable scoring rubrics.

**TWITTER**

Our latest eNewsletter is now available: <http://Lco/dvomTkWB>. Sign up to get monthly updates from the Consortium: <http://Lco/k0XhM5BG>  
21 mins ago - retweet - reply

Policy Coordinator Sue Gendron will present on #assessment system tomorrow Tue. 10/2 in @All4Ed webinar: <http://Lco/ei4E6MuO> #ccss  
2 days ago - retweet - reply

[More Tweets >](#)

**FAQs**

Q: How will teachers be selected to participate in the State Networks of Educators?

Q: How are teachers involved in creating the Smarter Balanced assessment system?

Q: How is Smarter Balanced different than current assessments?

**Table 1: Scores reported for individual students on Smarter Balanced summative assessments**

English Language Arts		
#	Claims	Weights for Composite
1	Reading	% (TBD)
2	Writing	% (TBD)
3	Speaking/Listening	% (TBD)
4	Research	% (TBD)
<b>Total Composite</b>		100%

Mathematics		
#	Claims	Weights for Composite
1	Concepts & Procedures	% (TBD)
2 & 4	Problem Solving & Modeling & Data Analysis	% (TBD)
3	Communicating Reasoning	% (TBD)
<b>Total Composite</b>		100%

# Sample Items



# Sample Items

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>