A Balanced Assessment System

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

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

- **Summative assessments**: Benchmarked to college and career readiness.
- **Teacher resources for formative assessment practices** to improve instruction.
- **Interim assessments**: Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback.

All students leave high school college and career ready.
# 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faster results</td>
<td>• Turnaround time is significantly reduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter test length</td>
<td>• Fewer questions compared to fixed form tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased precision</td>
<td>• Improved measures of student growth over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailored to student ability</td>
<td>• Item difficulty based on student responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater security</td>
<td>• Large item pool means not all students receive the same questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature technology</td>
<td>• GMAT, GRE, COMPASS (ACT), Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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

Organize the Content
- Content Specifications: October 2011

Design the Items
- Item Specifications: January 2012

Design the Tests
- Test Specifications: February 2012

Write the Items
- Item Writing for Pilot Test: 2012-2013
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


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Claims</th>
<th>Weights for Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Speaking/Listening</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Composite</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Claims</th>
<th>Weights for Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Concepts &amp; Procedures</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Problem Solving &amp; Modeling &amp; Data Analysis</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communicating Reasoning</td>
<td>% (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Composite</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Items