

## Smarter Balanced and Teachers: Preparing Students for Success

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing the Common Core and preparing all students for success in college and careers. Administered online, these new assessments provide an academic check-up and are designed to give teachers and parents better information to help students succeed.

Smarter Balanced assessments will replace existing tests in English and math for grades 3-8 and high school in the 2014-2015 school year. Scores from the new assessments represent a realistic baseline that provides a more accurate indicator for teachers, students, and parents as they work to meet the rigorous demands of college and career readiness.

### Key Features

- ✓ Writing at every grade
- ✓ New question types and performance tasks that ask students to demonstrate an array of research, writing, and problem solving skills
- ✓ Accessibility resources for all students and accommodations—such as Braille—for those who need them
- ✓ Developed with input from K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, and other

### More than Just a Year-End Test

Teachers will have access to resources that help them check in on student progress throughout the year.

The **Digital Library** is an online collection of resources aligned to the Common Core that help teachers improve classroom-based assessment practices. The Digital Library encourages collaboration and interaction, allowing teachers to rate materials and share their classroom experiences through online discussions. The Digital Library is available now to teachers.

**Optional interim assessments** allow schools to check student progress and help teachers plan and improve instruction. Schools will have two flexible administration options: Interim Comprehensive Assessments that mirror the year-end assessment; or Interim Assessment Blocks that focus on smaller sets of related standards and provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. The interim assessments will be available for grades 3-8 and high school beginning in winter 2014-15.

**Year-end summative assessments** accurately describe both student achievement and growth of student learning in English and math. Summative assessments include a computer adaptive test and performance tasks that challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to real-world problems. The summative assessments will be administered in grades 3-8 and 11, and will be available to schools beginning in spring 2015.

### Learn More

- Visit the Smarter Balanced website:  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>
- Follow us on Twitter:  
@SmarterBalanced

### Take the Test

- Gain familiarity with the test software platform and sample test questions for grades 3-8 and 11
- Take the Practice Test:  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>

