

# Smarter Balanced Field Test 2014

## How Parents Can Help

**February, 2014**

Dear BHUSD Parent or Guardian:

Our district is one of many in the country participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test this spring. Schools in 24 states will administer the online assessment to certain grades in mathematics and/or English language arts/literacy starting this March.

The Field Test is an opportunity to “test the test.” Information from the field test will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of test questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of the test administration and training materials.

For our district, students in **3-8, and 11** have been selected to take the Field Test in mathematics and English Language Arts. The assessment will take place March 24<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup> and will take three to four hours of your child’s time. The assessment will be administered over multiple days. Participation is confidential, and your child’s grades will not be affected.

This is a very exciting opportunity for our district. Students will be able to try out new, online testing software and innovative question types that will be very similar on future Smarter Balanced assessments. By participating in the field test, your child will be influencing the development of future Smarter Balanced assessments used in our schools.

You and your child can become more familiar with the assessment by encouraging your child to use the Practice Tests at the following website: <https://sbacpt.tds.airast.org/student/>. Additionally you can help your child become more comfortable with keyboarding using any of the free keyboarding programs found on our K-8 school websites. (Look at the “Websites for Learning Page” under the “Academics” tab.)

## Use These Links

### **Practice/Training Tests**

<https://sbacpt.tds.airast.org/student/>

### **Keyboarding Options**

Here are several websites that may help your practice keyboarding at home:

<http://www.tvokids.com/games/keyboardclimber>

<http://bigbrownbear.co.uk/learntotype/>

<http://www.typingweb.com/>

[http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/keyboarding\\_games/jumping.swf](http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/keyboarding_games/jumping.swf)

## More Information on Practice & Training Tests

### Practice and Training Tests

In preparation for the Field Test and to expose students to the various items in ELA and mathematics, it is highly recommended that all students access the Practice Test for the Field Test and/or the Training Test for the Field Test. Each resource offers students a unique opportunity to experience a test in a manner similar to what they will see on the Field Test and prepare students for the Field Test.

### Overview of the Practice Tests

Practice Tests are grade-specific (3–8 and 11) and include a range of item types, grade-level content, and difficulty. There are approximately 30 items, including a performance task, on a Practice Test in each content area. Smarter Balanced will increase the number of items and features in the Practice Tests over time.

### Overview of the Training Tests Sites

Training Tests are not grade specific and provide students and teachers with an opportunity to become familiar with the software and all interfaces features and functionality that will be used in the Smarter Balanced Field Test. The Training Tests are available by grade bands (3–5, 6–8, and high school) and have six items in ELA and eight to nine in mathematics. The Training Tests do not include performance tasks.