



Smarter Balanced: Preparing Students for Success after High School

In schools across the country, teachers are helping students meet the challenge of the Common Core State Standards—consistent guidelines for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level so they can graduate high school prepared for college and the workplace. These new academic benchmarks challenge students to develop a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically, and apply what they are learning to the real world.

Educators from Smarter Balanced states worked together to develop high-quality assessments that provide more accurate and meaningful information about what students are learning. The Smarter Balanced assessments replace existing tests in English and mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school. Administered online, these new assessments adapt to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents better information to help students succeed.

Key Features

- ▶ End-of-year tests measure student achievement and growth in English and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and high school. Interim tests allow teachers to check student progress throughout the year.
- ▶ Computer adaptive format provides an individualized test for every student; questions get harder when a student answers correctly, and easier when they answer incorrectly.
- ▶ Features for students with disabilities and English language learners so that all students can demonstrate what they know.
- ▶ Administered online with extended research, writing, and problem solving tasks that measure the critical thinking and problem-solving skills students need for success.
- ▶ A Digital Library of tools for teachers to use all year—including professional development materials and instructional resources—to meet students' individual needs.

Score Release

Because Smarter Balanced has a model of local control, each member state will release the results of their test on their own timeline. Smarter Balanced will not release any state-, district-, or student-level results. Once the final state has released its test results, Smarter Balanced will publish consortium-level information, showing how member states performed collectively.

By the Numbers

- ▶ More than 7 million students in 18 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Bureau of Indian Education took the 2015 summative assessment.
- ▶ Four vendors administer the test: American Institutes for Research, Data Recognition Corporation, Educational Testing Service, Measured Progress
- ▶ 4,700 educators helped develop and review test questions, set achievement levels, and develop the Digital Library
- ▶ 33,000 questions and performance tasks created