

Glossary of Terms

ALDs - Achievement Level Descriptors

Outcome measures aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Smarter Balanced assessment claims. The purpose of the descriptors is to specify, in content terms, the knowledge and skills that students display at four levels of achievement (i.e., Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4), which in some contexts may also be described qualitatively in terms such as “novice, developing, proficient, advanced.”

CAA - California Alternate Assessments

Online exams in ELA and math for 11th grade students whose cognitive disabilities preclude SBAC testing. These tests are being field-tested in 2014-15 and replace the CAPA. Like the CAPA, the CAA are delivered one on one by a qualified CAA Test Examiner familiar to the student. Like the CAASPP Smarter Balanced assessments, the CAA field tests are administered using a secure browser platform that can be downloaded for a variety of computing devices.

CAASPP - California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

Umbrella term referring to multiple tests that — together — comprise California’s mandated testing program. In 2014-15 at the high school level, CAASPP includes: 1) online SBAC assessments in ELA and math for 11th graders; 2) paper-based NCLB life-science test for 10th graders, including the CMA variation; 3) field-test of an online alternative assessment (CAA) for students with disabilities. Over time, additional tests will be added, including assessments in social science and science (aligned to Next Generation Science Standards).

CALPADS - California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data Systems

This system of electronic exchanges is used by school districts to supply the California Department of Education (CDE) with a variety of district information (including student data, course information, etc).

CAT - Computer Adaptive Test

Computer adaptive tests are customized to each student. During the test, the difficulty of questions changes based on student responses. Adaptive tests provide more precise information about student achievement in less time than a “fixed-form” test in which all students see the same set of questions.

CCSS - Common Core State Standards

States across the nation have adopted the same standards for English and math. These standards are called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Having the same standards helps all students, even if they change schools or move to a different state. Teachers, parents, and education experts designed the CCSS to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

CR - Constructed Response

Constructed Response (CR) is a general term for items requiring the student to generate a response as opposed to selecting a response. Both short and extended constructed response items will be used. Short constructed response items may require test-takers to enter a single word, phrase, sentence, number, or set of numbers, whereas extended constructed response items will require more elaborated answers and explanations of reasoning.

Digital Library

The Digital Library is an online collection of high quality instructional and professional learning resources, available to all California public K-12 educators. It contains resources aligned with the California Common Core State Standards to help educators implement the formative assessment process and improve teaching and learning.

IAB - Interim Assessment Blocks

Online assessments focusing on smaller sets of targets and therefore provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. Blocks are available initially as fixed forms and will include a computer adaptive algorithm when sufficient numbers of items become available. The IABs yield overall information for each block.

ICA - Interim Comprehensive Assessment

Online assessments testing the same range of standards as the operational SBAC. Initially in fixed form format, but will be adaptive when sufficient numbers of items become available. The ICAs include the same item types and formats, including performance tasks, as the Summative Assessments, and yield results on the same vertical scale. The ICAs yield overall scale scores, overall performance level designations, and claim-level information.

ISAAP - Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile

The ISAAP Tool is an optional resource that assists school-level personnel and decision-making teams in the process of selecting Designated Supports and/or Accommodations for the SB assessments and uploading these settings to the TOMS. The ISAAP Tool is a macros-enabled Excel workbook enriched with formulas that assist in setting ISAAP profiles for 15 students at a time.

PT - Performance Task

Item type designed to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge and higher-order thinking skills to explore and analyze a complex, real-world scenario. It is a required portion of the test. Prior to the PT, teachers or instructional staff conduct a Classroom Activity for all students in the class to ensure that a lack of understanding of the context of the task does not interfere with a student's ability to address the content of the task.

SBAC - Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

National consortium responsible for developing a series of assessments designed to measure performance against the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

STS - Standards-based Tests in Spanish

The optional STS are multiple-choice tests that allow Spanish-speaking English learners in grades 2 through 11 to demonstrate their knowledge of the California content standards by taking a reading/language arts (RLA) assessment in their primary language. STS items are developed by biliterate, bilingual California educators and test developers. Students take the STS for RLA in addition to, not in place of, the Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy assessments.

TA - Test Administrator

Personnel responsible for administering the Smarter Balanced assessments in a secure manner in compliance with the policies and procedures outlined in this manual. TAs are required to have a signed CAASPP Test Security Affidavit on file with their school coordinator.

TOMS - Test Operations Management System

The Test Operations Management System (TOMS) is the overall registration system used by the Smarter Balanced assessments system. TOMS is the system through which users interact with and inform the test delivery system. In California, TOMS receives student demographic and program participation data from the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and is also used by District Test Coordinators (DCs) and School Test Coordinators (SCs) to assign designated supports and accommodations.