

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics



WHAT ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS?

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are part of California’s state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The summative assessments are an annual measure of what students know and can do using the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy and mathematics.



WHY ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The purpose of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments is to measure what students know and can do (student achievement) and how much students have improved since the previous year (student growth). These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need for success in higher grades and become ready for college or a career.



WHO TAKES THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS?

All students in grades three through eight and grade eleven take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments unless a student’s active individualized education program (IEP) designates the California Alternate Assessments.



HOW ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The Smarter Balanced Assessments are computer-adaptive tests that adjust the difficulty of questions on the basis of the answers students give. As students answer correctly, they receive more challenging questions. Incorrect answers trigger easier questions.

This approach helps keep students engaged, shortens testing time for many students, and provides more accurate results, especially for low- or high-achieving students.



WHEN ARE THE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?



The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are administered from January through the last day of the local educational agency’s selected testing window or the last day of instruction. Most schools will test between the middle of March and the middle of May.

