Smarter Balanced Assessments

An Overview
Who is the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium?
Smarter Balanced Member States

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
Member States as of April 2013

[Map showing the states colored in green representing governing states, blue representing advisory states, and red representing affiliate members.]
The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

- The federal Race to the Top initiative funded two assessment consortiums in 2010
- The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, or SBAC, is one of the two consortiums
- Comprised of 22 member states
- The goal was to develop assessments for the Common Core State Standards by the 2014-15 school year
What Are the Smarter Balanced Assessments?
SBAC Overview

• A suite of “next-generation” assessments designed to assess the CCSS and accurately measure student progress towards college- and career-readiness

  • Students who meet standard on the SBAC summative assessments, should be ready for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses

• The goal:
  – Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning
Who and What Are Tested?

• 3rd-8th and 11th grades (3rd-8th tests replace current MSP tests)

• English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics (writing is embedded in ELA and mathematics)
  – ELA includes literary and informational reading, foundational reading skills, writing, research, and speaking & listening

• 5th and 8th grade science MSP tests will continue

• 10th grade reading, writing, and math assessments will still be used as part of graduation requirements until 2019

• 11th grade SBAC assessments may become new graduation requirement in 2019
Why new assessments?
Limitations of Current State-Level Assessments

• Inefficient - each state pays for its own assessments
• Based on state, not Common Core State Standards
• Heavy use of multiple choice and no technology enhanced items
• New items types and structures (i.e. performance tasks) needed to assess complexity and interconnectedness of CCSS
• Long delay in getting results – limits utility
• Accommodations for special education and ELL students vary
• Most administered on paper, not computer
Advantages of Smarter Balanced Assessments

**SBAC is computer adaptive:**

- More efficient – fewer questions needed to determine student proficiency level
- Able to show growth in student learning
  - Uses a single vertical scale that spans across grades (like MAP)
- More accurate results, especially at extreme ends of scale
  - Item difficulty adjusted based on student responses
  - Provides better data for providing supports and acceleration
How a Computer Adaptive Test Works

College & Career Ready

11th Grade

6th Grade

3rd Grade

Kindergarten
Student Growth Over Time

- A single scale across grades
- Allows for student growth to be shown over time

- Example of student growth starting in 3rd grade and going across 3 years
What’s New on Smarter Balanced Assessments

• Writing at all grades – integrated into ELA and math
  – Quick writes
  – Extended writing tasks as part of new performance tasks

• Listening tasks (students will use headphones)
What’s New on Smarter Balanced Assessments

• New item types to better assess complex skills, depth of knowledge, and interconnections in CCSS:
  – Technology-enhanced items (e.g. drag-and-drop items)
  – Performance Tasks – to demonstrate real-world writing and analytic skills and ability to integrate skills across standards
A Comprehensive Assessment Suite

Three components of SBAC assessment suite:

1) Summative assessment – replaces the MSP
2) Interim assessments - to see student progress on the standards
   - Similar to summative
   - Available as comprehensive or in smaller blocks
3) Digital library of resources for teachers
   - On-demand teacher resources (e.g. lesson plans)
   - Professional development resources
Performance Tasks
Elements of the new Performance Tasks

• A significant change from MSP - addition of performance tasks in both ELA and math

• Students are asked to answer “complex questions” on a particular theme or problem

• Goal of Performance Tasks: To measure students’ ability to integrate skills and knowledge across standards (with real-world writing, research, and analytical skills)
Elements of the new Performance Tasks

• First, teachers do a classroom lesson
  – Approx. 30 minutes
  – Provides background knowledge for students on the topic of theme of the task

• Then students have a 2-part performance task
  – Doing reading, research, and answering questions
  – An extended writing task (such as argumentative writing) where students synthesize research and reading
SBAC Accommodations

There are three levels of student accommodations:

• **Universal tools**
  – Such as calculators, dictionaries, and breaks are available for all students

• **Designated supports**
  – Such as translations of directions/glossaries and scribes are available when indicated by a teacher or other adult

• **Accomodations**
  – Such as ASL, Braille, and read alouds are available for students with 504s and IEPs
## OSPI Student Privacy Info

### What type of information WILL Smarter Balanced collect?
- An ID number (different from the state’s unique student ID so only the state can link back to a student’s official record)
- Race/ethnicity, gender, grade level, school attended
- Student eligibility for ELL or special education services provided to the student
- Student eligibility for Title I
- Smarter Balanced test scores, achievement levels, and responses to test questions

### What information WON’T Smarter Balanced collect?
Smarter Balanced will never collect identifying info (such as student name & date of birth) unless specifically directed to do so by a member state. Further, Smarter Balanced will not collect info unnecessary to the assessment system, like:
- Parent names or addresses
- Student or parent email
- Telephone numbers
- Social Security numbers
- Parent or student medical information
OSPI Student Privacy Info

Smarter Balanced will not share student-level information with the U.S. Department of Education

• “Washington state will not change the type of data we report to the U.S. Department of Education. We will continue only to share aggregate student data – the same information required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.”

• For more information, go to:
  – http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/StudentPrivacy.aspx

• Source:
SBAC Security

Data Security

“Smarter balanced follows industry best practice for securing the storage and transmission of student records.”

- All student data are encrypted when in transit and when stored in an accessible data system
- Data backups are encrypted and physically secured
- Audit logs are kept of user activity including management of accounts, granting of permissions, proctoring of exams and generation of reports
- Smarter Balanced never accepts social security numbers for any individual

Source:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSP - Out with the Old</th>
<th>SBAC – In with the New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades 3-8</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Booklet</td>
<td>• Computer Adaptive Test or <strong>CAT</strong> delivered on computer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Performance Task or <strong>PT</strong> - Must have a lesson (approx. 30 min.) taught in the classroom 1-3 days in advance of seeing the PT. PT is delivered on the computer with a 30 minute presentation and then students respond to the task directly on computers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math – All grades</td>
<td>• CAT and PT are both parts of Math and ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading – All grades</td>
<td>Reading – All grades but combined into English Language Arts/Literacy or <strong>ELA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grades 3-8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing – Grades 4 and 7</td>
<td>Writing – All grades but combined into English Language Arts/Literacy or ELA. Only one “prompt” for each grade level similar to MSP but not exactly the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No listening</td>
<td>Listening – All grades but combined into English Language Arts/Literacy or ELA. Headphones required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science – Grades 5 &amp; 8 – Same</td>
<td>No science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Test Coordinator Training focused on protocol for proctors and coding of booklets.</td>
<td>School Test Coordinator Training focused on Online Management Tool (similar to online MSP) and protocol and logistics – tickets/login/student navigation of embedded tools. School-wide schedule? Who proctors?</td>
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<td><strong>Grades 3-8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Set district schedule</td>
<td>Flexible schedule set by schools within the last 12 weeks of school. District approval required. Will take a lot of building planning for schedule with computers for both CAT and PT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Untimed, but must finish in 1 day.</td>
<td>Untimed Scheduled over multiple days for each CAT and PT or in a block schedule: CAT is done in one day PT on another day PT must finish within 5 days of computer presentation CAT will be active after login up to 45 days.</td>
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<td>Test taking skills - all paper/pencil</td>
<td>Test taking skills: 1. To use embedded tools – practice tests are online 2. Keyboarding skills</td>
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HSPE/EOCs vs. SBAC
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<th>HSPE/EOC – Out with the Old</th>
<th>SBAC – In with the New</th>
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<td><strong>High School</strong></td>
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<td>Test booklet</td>
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<td>• CAT and PT are both parts of Math &amp; ELA.</td>
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<td>• Approx. 1.5 hr. for the CAT, 2 hr. for the PT once in front of the computer.</td>
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<td>Reading – 10th grade/others if need to attempt again to pass for graduation</td>
<td>Reading – 11th grade but combined into English Language Arts/Literacy or ELA.</td>
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<td>HSPE/EOC – Out with the Old</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing – 10th grade/others if need to attempt again to pass for graduation</td>
<td>Writing – 11th grade but combined into English Language Arts/Literacy or ELA. Only one “prompt”.</td>
</tr>
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<td>No listening</td>
<td>Listening – All grades but combined into English Language Arts/Literacy or ELA. Headphones required.</td>
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<td>Mandated state schedule</td>
<td>Flexible schedule set by schools within the last 7 weeks of school. Must be approved by district. Will take a lot of building planning for schedule with computers for both CAT and PT.</td>
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<td>Untimed, but must finish in 1 day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test taking skills - all paper/pencil</td>
<td>Test taking skills: To use embedded tools – practice tests online in advance of the “real” test</td>
</tr>
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<td>Accommodations – SPED and 504 most are accessed with additional tools and staff support.</td>
<td>Accommodations – most are embedded as tools in the test engine – major exception is Braille. There will be current SPED tests available for 11th and 12th grade for graduation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Follow-up Information

• **Smarter Balanced Website:**
  - [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)

• **Contact info:**
  - Shawn Cook
    Assessment Development Project Mgr.
    Seattle Public Schools
    206-252-0231
    smcoook@seattleschools.org

• **General SBAC Questions:**
  [SBACadmin@seattleschools.org](mailto:SBACadmin@seattleschools.org)
Practice Tests
SBAC Practice Tests

• From any computer:
  – www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test
  – Scroll down and click on “Take the Practice and Training Tests”
  – Click on “Practice and Training Tests”
  – Click on “Student Interface Practice and Training Tests”
  – Click “Sign in”
  – Select a grade and click “Yes”
  – Select:
    – “Start G_ Math/ELA Practice Test” or
    – “Start G_ Math/ELA Performance Task”