A Smarter and Balanced System for Improving Teaching and Learning

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Topics

• Overview of Smarter Balanced
• Fair and Valid Evidence
• Focus on Interpreting Information and Problem Solving
• Individualizing the Assessment
• Continuous Improvement
A Balanced Assessment System

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness.

Summative assessments
Benchmarked to college and career readiness

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning.

Teacher resources for formative assessment practices to improve instruction

Interim assessments
Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback

All students leave high school college and career ready.
Assessment of and for Learning should yield valid and fair evidence.

**Summative**
- Cog Labs
- Detailed Specifications
- Standardized
- Psychometric Analysis
- Adaptive selection of items

**Interim**
- Universal Design
- Multi-disciplinary (simultaneous not serial)

**Formative**
- Quality Criteria that allows for professional judgment
- Flexible implementation
- Educators evaluations of observed effectiveness

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Education focus is more on interpreting information and solving problems

**English Language Arts**
- Include informational passages in the context of science and social science
- Ask students to identify, analyze and evaluate evidence sources
- Performance tasks that emphasize research and writing skills

**Mathematics**
- Balance of tasks assessing conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application of mathematics to solve problems
- Performance tasks that allow students to solve a complex problem with multiple facets
- Ask students to explain their solution to the problem
Individualize the Assessment
For the Student...

• Adaptive algorithm to provide more information about each student’s ability
• Pop-up context accurate and grade appropriate glossaries
• Tools and supports that are readily available and activated under the control of the student rather than an adult
• Universal design including support for online refreshable braille
• Task models and rubrics that are created in the context of a diverse society
• Interim and Formative Tools to help educators and adults adapt their teaching and learning
Individualize the Assessment
For Educators...

• The interim assessment will allow teachers to see the questions posed to students and the students' responses allowing them to better adjust their instructional strategies.

• The interim and formative assessment contain flexible tools and resources to allow teachers to better match scope and sequence as well as determine the grain size appropriate for the context of their inquiry.

• The allowable accommodations and supports will ensure validity and provide educators with confidence that they can make decisions in part based on the results.
His school will be different than ours
Complex problems require complex solutions and complex scoring strategies.
A robust and versatile base...

- Each component of the system (accommodations, item types, technology, etc.) is designed to be sustainable and to support managed change
- Technology will be released into open source
- K-12 and Higher Ed institutions from across the nation contribute to the design and review to provide a diversity of input
...Allows for Continuous Improvement. 2014 is only the beginning...

- Future inclusion of Natural User Interfaces to allow students to better describe their mathematical reasoning
- Better methods of scoring evidence that students allow the use of Natural User Interfaces (pictures, handwritten notes, equations, etc)
- The inclusion of evidence collected in the context of peer collaboration
- More languages and deeper support for languages other than English
Smarter Balanced can be found online at: SmarterBalanced.org