

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



WHAT ARE THE INTERIM ASSESSMENTS?

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are a part of California's state testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The interim assessments are optional tests that measure what students know and can do using the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

The interim assessments are versatile and can be administered to students in either a standardized (e.g., benchmark) or nonstandardized manner or used by school and district staff for professional development. There are two kinds of interim assessments—interim comprehensive assessments (ICAs) and interim assessment blocks (IABs). More than 120 interim assessments are available for use.

INTERIM COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS

The ICAs are built on the same blueprint as the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Each ICA contains approximately 35 to 45 items.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT BLOCKS

The IABs focus on smaller sets of targets to provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. Each IAB contains approximately 5 to 15 items.



WHY ARE THE INTERIM ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The purpose of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments is to provide teachers and administrators with results they can use to support teaching and learning. In addition, the interim assessments provide meaningful information for gauging student progress toward mastery of the skills measured by the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.



WHO TAKES THE INTERIM ASSESSMENTS?

Although developed for grades three through eight and high school, the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments can be administered to students at any grade level (i.e., K–12).



HOW ARE THE INTERIM ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are computer-based tests. Unlike the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, which are adaptive, the interim assessments have a fixed number of items.

Many interim assessments contain items that require hand scoring. All hand scoring must be completed locally by school or district staff.



WHEN ARE THE INTERIM ASSESSMENTS GIVEN?

JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are available for use at any time during the year. The timing and frequency of interim assessment use are locally determined.

