

What Do They Mean for Me?

The Smarter Balanced assessments will replace existing tests in English and math for grades 3-8 and high school beginning in the 2014-15 school year. These new assessments measure critical thinking with questions that ask students to demonstrate their research, writing, and problem solving skills. With Smarter Balanced, parents, teachers, and policymakers will have better tools and information to monitor student progress and help them succeed. Visit our website to learn more and take a Practice Test: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>.

Students

- I am challenged to complete complex tasks and apply my knowledge
- I know how I am progressing toward college and career readiness
- My test results will be accurate and will show what I know and am able to do

“It made me want to try, since I got to explain my reasoning and explain why I chose what I chose.”

—Student, Idaho

Parents

- My child’s class time is focused on learning and not on testing
- My child will have opportunities to improve
- I will know whether my child’s school is performing as well as it should

“We witnessed firsthand how the new assessments will challenge students to think critically and problem solve. We know that our students can rise to the challenge if we as a community rally to support student success.”

—Parent and community member, Hawaii

Teachers

- I won’t be surprised by the test results at the end of the year
- I will have the supports I need to help my students
- The assessments measures the right things in the right way

“Students were comfortable with the test especially after doing the practice test prior to testing. These were very helpful!”

—Teacher, Delaware

Policymakers

- We are sharing costs with other states to provide a world-class test
- We can compare the performance and growth of our schools, districts, and state so that we can improve
- We know the test will work for us because we helped build it
- Higher education can use the test as an early signal of college readiness

“We believe California’s implementation of the Common Core standards and aligned assessments has the potential to dramatically improve college readiness and help close the preparation gap that exists for California students.”

—Higher education leaders, California