

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Helpful Information for Families

What are Smarter Balanced assessments?

Computer-adaptive year-end tests in math and English. Smarter Balanced assessments are not timed, but for most students they take about 7-8 hours, taken in sections over a number of days. There are various types of questions: selected response, constructed response and performance tasks. The assessments automatically adjust to each student's level.

Why?

Smarter Balanced assessments are part of California's testing program for public schools. Families, teachers, school sites, and school districts use the information to measure students' mastery of Common Core Standards and progress toward college and career readiness.

Who takes it?

Grades 3-8 and Grade 11. Some students with disabilities take an alternative year-end assessment.

When?

Spring, from mid-March to the end of the school year. The Smarter Balanced testing schedule varies by SFUSD school, within this window.

How are Smarter Balanced results used?

Teachers use the assessments to measure student progress for grade level standards during the year. Smarter Balanced gives educators information and tools to improve teaching and learning.

Things you can do!

- Try the Smarter Balanced practice test <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>
- Know what your child should be learning in English and math.
- Use your child's test results from last year to identify areas where he or she might need additional support. Practice! Practice! Practice! Homework is a great way to reinforce the skills and content your child learns everyday in the classroom and that the test measures. For sample problems and questions along with solutions and answers, visit <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/common-core-test-guide/>.

For more information: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/sbparentgde35.pdf>