What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?

What is it?
The Smarter Balanced Assessment measures what students know, based on the
Common Core State Standards* (CCSS) in English-language arts and Mathematics. It
covers the full range of college and career-ready knowledge and skills that are
required for student success.

Who takes it?
Students in grades 3-8 and 11

When is it?
For students in grades 3-8, the testing window is February 25 – May 29.
For students in grade 11, the testing window is April 8 – May 29.

How is it given?
During the 2014-2015 administration, students will be given the assessment on the computer. School sites will determine which computers/ tablets will be used and will schedule classes throughout the testing window. It is expected that students will require 8 hours to complete all parts of the assessment which will be broken into sessions.

Why the change?
- Over the past several years, SFUSD has made a shift to the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English and Mathematics. The CCSS are more demanding than previous standards. The Smarter Balanced Assessment was created to measure student mastery of these new standards.

Who is making the change?
- 43 states have adopted the Common Core State Standards;
  20 are member states of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.
- For more information, visit the California Department of Education website:
  http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp

* Standards – A defined list of knowledge and skills that all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

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Things you can do!

➤ Ask your child about topics covered in class over the year. Review concepts and ask your child to explain her/his thinking process.

➤ Ask your child’s teacher(s) to explain grade level expectations. Ask what support or enrichment s/he offers to students performing at or above grade level and what you can do to help.

➤ Learn more about ways to support your child’s learning in English, math and computer literacy skills by going online:
  - **English**: [www.sfusdhumanities.org](http://www.sfusdhumanities.org)
  - **Math**: [www.sfusdmath.org](http://www.sfusdmath.org)
  - **Educational Technology**: [http://k5.sfusdedtech.org](http://k5.sfusdedtech.org)

➤ Take the **Practice Test** with your child. (See below.) Work through problems and explain your thinking process.

What differences will my child notice?

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment goes well beyond multiple-choice.
- 4 NEW item types are included:
  - *Selected-response* (select one or more responses)
  - *Technology-enhanced* (utilize computer tools)
  - *Constructed-response* (collect evidence and integrate thinking to complete a response)
  - *Performance task* (multi-step, multi-standard problem-solving; will demonstrate research, synthesis and analysis)

To view sample questions, visit the Practice Test: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/ca/practice-test-ca/](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/ca/practice-test-ca/)

To view correct answers and explanations, visit the Scoring Guides: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/)