



## What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment? Helpful Information for Families – 2014-2015

### 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.

For the 2014-2015 school year, students will receive scores from the Smarter Balanced Test. Scores will be reported to the District, schools, teachers, and parents.

### 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.

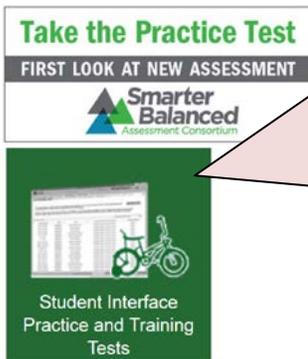


### What differences will my child notice?

- 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)

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



To view sample questions, visit the Practice Test:

<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/>