What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?
Helpful Information for Families – 2013-2014

What is it?
The Smarter Balanced Assessment measures what students know, based on the Common Core State Standards* 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 3-5, the testing window is April 7 – May 16.
For students at a K-8, middle school, or in grade 11, the testing window is March 18 – May 16.

How is it given?
During the 2013-2014 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 4 hours to complete all parts of the assessment which will be broken into sessions.

Why the change?
- As SFUSD shifts to the Common Core State Standards in English-language arts (2013-2014) and Mathematics (2014-2015), classroom instruction has deepened. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is structured to meet more challenging daily instruction.

Who is making the change?
- 45 states have adopted the Common Core State Standards;
- 24 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

For the 2013-2014 school year, the Smarter Balanced Assessment is only a FIELD TEST. Scores will not be reported to the District, schools, teachers, or parents.
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 at home to help.

➤ Review computer literacy skills, using activities available online:
  - Treasures – Computer Literacy Resources
  - Everyday Math – Computer Use Demos
    [https://emgames.everydaymathonline.com/demosite/demo_chooser_1.html](https://emgames.everydaymathonline.com/demosite/demo_chooser_1.html)

➤ Take the Practice Test with your child. Work through problems and explain your thinking process.

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

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/)