

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are part of the statewide assessment system called the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program or WCAP.

The WCAP is designed to give information to teachers, students, and their families about what students know and are able to do and whether they are on track to be ready for success in college or career when they graduate from high school.



Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
All students in grades 3 through 8 and 10.	Tests students' knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.	Each school selects its own testing window. Testing can begin as early as March and continue through early June. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific dates and times of testing.

HOW	WHY
<p>The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are computer adaptive. The online tests give students many different types of questions that allow them to interact with the test questions. For some of the math questions, for example, your student might be asked to drag and drop things from one place on the screen to another or draw a graph to represent a situation.</p> <p>Computer-adaptive tests adjust the difficulty of the questions based on the answers that students give. As students answer questions correctly, they receive more challenging questions. Incorrect answers trigger easier questions. This helps keep the test short for many students and makes sure the scores are very accurate, especially for students who score very low or very high.</p>	<p>Test results are one piece of information about how your student is doing in school.</p> <p>Together with report cards and other information, test results tell us if your student is on track to succeed in higher grades as well as for college and career.</p> <p>For students in grade 10, these results are used by some community colleges in Washington to measure if students are on track for college-level classes.</p>

Do students with disabilities take the Smarter Balanced summative assessments?

Yes. Students with disabilities take the Smarter Balanced summative assessments, unless they have an active individualized education program (IEP) that designates an alternate assessment. The Washington-Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM) for ELA and mathematics are administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

What resources are available for students?

All students have access to various accessibility resources they might need when taking the test, like a calculator on some math problems, a glossary when taking the reading part of the test, or a highlighter that they can use to highlight important parts of a long paragraph.

Students with disabilities have additional supports such as American Sign Language videos or braille. All of the accessibility resources help students gain fair access to the test and do not affect the students' scores in any way.

How can I help my student prepare for the test?

You are an important part of your student's education. Some things you can do to help your student are:

- Discuss the purpose of the state tests with your student. Help them be relaxed and comfortable.
- Tell your student that you and their teacher want them to do well and try their best and that you are both there to support them.
- Make sure your student is prepared for school on test days as they would be before every school day.
- Review test results with your student and discuss with their teacher where your student might need additional help.



The Smarter Balanced assessments are aligned with the Washington State 2011 K-12 learning standards. The learning standards can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/LearningStandards.aspx>.

Practice and Training Tests for Smarter Balanced are available at <https://wa.portal.airast.org/training-tests.stml>. Visit <http://testscoreguide.org/wa/> for information about your student's score and sample test items.

Additional Information

More information about the Smarter Balanced assessments can be found on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's summative assessments web page at <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/default.aspx>.

Visit the Family Resources web page at <http://www.k12.wa.us/Resources/default.aspx> for additional information.

For more information about your student's scores, contact your student's teacher and/or the school office.

