



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

Alliance District Convening
October 2015

A Balanced Assessment System

How do we get from here...

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness



Summative assessments
Benchmarked to college and career readiness

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning



...to here?

All students leave high school college and career ready

Teacher resources for **formative assessment practices** to improve instruction

Interim assessments
Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback



The Smarter Balanced Assessment System

The **summative components** include adaptive tests (CAT) and performance tasks (PT).

The **interim components** are administered on a computer using the same test delivery software as the summative assessments. Items are not adaptive and include a PT.



What is a CAT?

- CAT = Computer Adaptive Test
- During the test, the difficulty of questions changes based on student responses.
- An adaptive test provides more precise information about student achievement than a paper-pencil test in which all students see the same set of questions.
- The interim assessments are currently not adaptive.



What is a PT?

- PT = Performance Task
- Challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to complex real-world problems
- Collections of questions and activities that are coherently connected to a single theme or scenario
- Measure capacities such as depth of understanding, writing and research skills, and complex analysis, which cannot be adequately assessed with traditional assessment questions





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Overview of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

Interim Assessment Items

- The items and performance tasks were developed simultaneously with the summative assessment items
- The items and tasks assess the same content and skills as the summative assessment
- Non-secure/non public



Two Types of Interim Assessments

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

Interim Comprehensive
Assessment
(ICA)

Interim Assessment
Blocks
(IAB)



How are the IAB and ICA Similar?

- Available at Grades 3-8 and High School
- Administered at teacher's discretion, including using off grade-level
- Same item types as the summative assessment
- Currently not computer adaptive
- Scoring:
 - Many items are machine scored
 - Some constructed-response (open-ended) items are hand scored by teachers
 - Hand scoring materials are available to support scoring; training is required



How are the IAB and ICA Different?

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICA)

- Same design (blueprint) as summative
- One ICA per grade level and content area
- Must complete both on-line items and PT
- One ICA per grade and PT to receive a score
- Yield overall scale scores, achievement levels and claim-level information (same as summative)

Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB)

- Short, focused sets of items grouped by similar content
- Between 4-7 IABs currently available per content area
- 6 -18 items per block
- Yield overall information for each block





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Benefits and Limitations

How the Interim Assessments May Be Used

Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA)

Midyear: A 6th grade teacher has collected formative information that indicate that her students have learned a substantial portion of the 6th grade content standards. The teacher administers an interim assessment to provide additional data about the students' progress.

Caution: The ICAs are the equivalent of administering the full summative assessment



How the Interim Assessments May Be Used

Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB)

A teacher recently changed his instruction to emphasize reading informational text. The teacher administers a Read Informational Texts IAB to augment his formative information regarding the degree to which students learned the skills he emphasized.



Benefits

- **Grade flexibility**
 - available for students in Grades 3 through high school
 - tests from any grade can be used, depending on purpose
- **Educator Professional Development**
 - By engaging in hand scoring and analyzing the results of performance-based student assessments, teachers have the opportunity to learn more about the standards, their students, and their teaching practice.



New Item Analysis Feature

- An item analysis feature for the interim assessments is anticipated in October 2015.
- This feature will be part of
 - a student's Interim Individual Student Report
 - a class report
- This feature will include
 - list of IABs the student has taken and the score breakdown for each block
 - number of points earned compared to the total possible points



Current Limitations

- There is currently an overlap of items in the ICA and IABs for each content area
- Limited release of IABs during year one
- Not adaptive
- Both the IABs and ICA share the same PT for each grade and content area
- Student responses to hand scored items are only available during the scoring process



Future Enhancements

- The interim item pool will be increased using items from the 2015 embedded field test to reduce overlap
- Future field testing will allow for a larger pool of items to support adaptive testing
- Secure viewing system being developed to allow teachers to view/retrieve student responses after scoring
- The Online Reporting System will provide suggested links to Digital Library



Scoring Considerations

- ICA:** To generate a score, both the on line items and PT portions must be completed and all hand scoring submitted using the Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS)
- IAB:** To generate a score, all items **within a block** must be completed and all hand scoring, if applicable, must be completed
- Teachers must be trained prior to hand scoring responses, similar to the training required to score summative assessment items



Before Interim Assessments are administered...

Educators should have clarity regarding the **purpose** of the assessment and the **uses** of the assessment data before committing to the use of the assessments.



And...

Although the items are **not released to the public**, the interim assessment items are **not secure**.





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Before Administering Interim Assessments

Considerations

- Provide teachers with training on implementing assessments, interpreting results and using data effectively
- Instructional supports, such as Digital Library, materials, and further professional development to provide continued support to teachers



CT Assessment Portal

<http://CT.portal.airast.org>

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Students & Families



Smarter Balanced Assessment



CMT/CAPT Science



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Technology Resources



Recent Announcements

• Online Reporting System Training Webinar

The Connecticut State Department of Education in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) will provide an Online Reporting System (ORS) training on Monday, September 21, 2015 from 3 - 4 p.m. This webinar will provide a demonstration of the ORS to access 2015 Smarter Balanced test results. This webinar is available to all Connecticut educators. [Register](#) for the webinar by September 20. After registering, a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar will be sent.

Added September 16, 2015

- Please be aware of the upcoming scheduled down-times. The listed systems will be unavailable during the following periods:

September 19 – 20, 2015 – Practice and training tests

September 25 – October 5, 2015 – TIDE

October 3 – 16, 2015 – Online Reporting System

Added September 11, 2015

- Linux Secure Browsers are now available for download on the [secure browsers page](#).

Added September 3, 2015

- The secure browsers for online testing in the 2015–2016 school year are now available for download. Please visit the [secure browsers page](#) and read the [Secure Browser Installation Manual](#) for more information. The secure

Welcome!

Welcome to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This site provides access to resources for the Smarter Balanced Assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy, CMT/CAPT Science Assessments, and the Alternate Assessment.



Important Dates



Secure Browsers



Practice & Training Tests



Contact Us



CSDE Student Assessment News





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Viewing the Interim Assessments

Assessment Viewing Application (AVA)

- Requires a TIDE username/password
- Allows users to view and interact with the **interim** assessments without starting a test session
- Suggested uses:
 - A teacher may display the interim assessment in a classroom setting after students completed a test. The teacher can facilitate a discussion about the items and solutions.
 - District personnel responsible for PD may review the interim assessments to become familiar with the content that is assessed, particularly on each IAB.



Assessment Viewing Application (AVA)

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COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PORTAL



System is Not Currently Open

Teacher Hand Scoring System



TA Practice & Training Site



System is Not Currently Open

Test Administration Certification



TIDE



System is Not Currently Open

Test Administration



Online Reporting System



Digital Library



Assessment Viewing Application



Prism Assessment Room Activities



Assessment Viewing Application

Welcome, Test Administrators and Teachers!

This site provides resources for administering the Smarter Balanced Assessments for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy.

Announcements

- The Online Reporting System (ORS) is currently offline for System Enhancements related to the 2014-2015 School Year.

If you have any questions, please contact the Connecticut Help Desk at 1-844-202-7583 or cthelpdesk@air.org

Added July 23, 2015

• 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Surveys

The Connecticut State Department of Education is collecting feedback from district staff involved in the administration of the 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment. Three unique surveys are available to District Test Administrators, Test Administrators/Teachers and Technology Coordinators. This information will be used to help us prepare and improve the assessments next year. We encourage you to take a few moments to [complete the survey](#) and share with appropriate colleagues. Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Added August 20, 2015

- This is a reminder that the Smarter Balanced summative test window closes tomorrow, **June 12, 2015**. All summative tests (CAT and Performance Tasks) will be inaccessible until next year's administration.

Added June 11, 2015

- The Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) is now available for teachers and administrators. AVA allows teachers to view items from the Smarter Balanced



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Scoring the Interim Assessments

Scoring

- Specific item types are machine scored
- Short-text and full-write items will be hand scored locally (school/classroom) using scoring rubrics and training materials
- Scoring of non-machine scored items is a local responsibility
 - ICAs and some IABs have items that are not machine-scored
- Scoring of tests
 - Same scoring rules as summative tests



Interim Assessment Hand Scoring

- Educators use Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) to assign scores to hand scored items
 - Rubrics and training materials are provided within the system



Teacher Hand Scoring System

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COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PORTAL

Teacher Hand Scoring System
System is Not Currently Open

Test Administration Certification
System is Not Currently Open

TIDE
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Teacher Hand Scoring System
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Online Reporting System

Digital Library

District Administrator Resources

Interim Assessment Classroom Activities

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Added June 11, 2015
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Reporting the Scores

Score Reporting

| Interim Comprehensive Assessments | Interim Assessment Blocks |
|--|---|
| <p>ICA reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is the same as the summative assessment• is by student, grade, school, district• indicates achievement level for mathematics and English language arts(ELA)• provides an overall score for math and ELA• designates one classification per claim in both math and ELA: “Below Standard,” “At/Near Standard,” and “Above Standard” | <p>IAB reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is by student, grade, school, district• can be broken down by target at an aggregate level (dependent on N count)• provides one classification per block: “Below Standard,” “At/Near Standard,” and “Above Standard” |



Online Reporting System (ORS)



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PORTAL



System is Not Currently Open

Teacher Hand
Scoring System

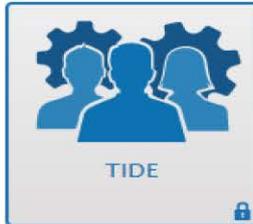


TA Practice &
Training Site



System is Not Currently Open

Test Administrator
Certification



TIDE



System is Not Currently Open

Test Administration



Online Reporting
System



Online Reporting
System



Digital Library



District Administrator
Resources



Interim Assessment
Classroom Activities



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Viewing Application

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Smarter Balanced Assessment Surveys

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Timeline

In Early October

- Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)
- Test Delivery System (TDS) for Interim only
- Assessment Viewing Application (AVA)
- Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS)
- Online Reporting System (ORS) for Interim only



Interim Assessments



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Interim Assessments

The Smarter Balanced interim assessments allow teachers to check student progress throughout the year, giving them actionable information to inform instruction and help students meet the challenge of college- and career-ready standards.

The interim assessments are one of the three major components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System—along with the end-of-year summative assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics and a Digital Library of formative assessment tools and practices that supports classroom instruction.

Teachers can use the interim assessments throughout the year to gauge student progress toward mastery of the skills measured by the summative assessment and to assess targeted concepts at strategic points during the school year.

Key Features

- Grades 3-8 and high school are supported. At the high school level, the assessments are consistent with the grade 11 summative design and may be administered in grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12.
- There are two options for the interim assessments:
 - **Interim Comprehensive Assessments** use the same blueprint as the summative assessments, assess the same range of standards, and provide scores on the same scale.
 - **Interim Assessment Blocks** focus on smaller sets of related concepts and provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. There are between five and seventeen blocks per subject per grade.
- Test questions are not secure, and there are no restrictions on the number of times that teachers or students may access assessments.

SCHOOL YEARS

See what's happening and when with Smarter Balanced. [See School Years](#) ▶

FAST FACTS

2014-15

... will be the first school year of full implementation of the new assessments.

TWITTER

[#CommonCore](#) has improved student achievement & teacher development according to this NV educator via [@edu_post](#)
<http://t.co/XmZNS0MF01>

[@SmarterBalanced](#) was developed by [#teachers](#) for [#students](#). Learn more:
<http://t.co/rialesZd8P> [#assessments](#)
[#educators](#) [#supportthecore](#)





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Resources

Professional Development Opportunities

The What, the How, and the Why of Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

To register visit:

www.CTCoreStandards.org



Focus of the Workshop

Purposes and uses for the Interim Comprehensive Assessments and the Interim Assessment Blocks for English language arts/literacy and mathematics

Scoring student responses using the hand-scoring training materials

Using student scores and responses to support instruction



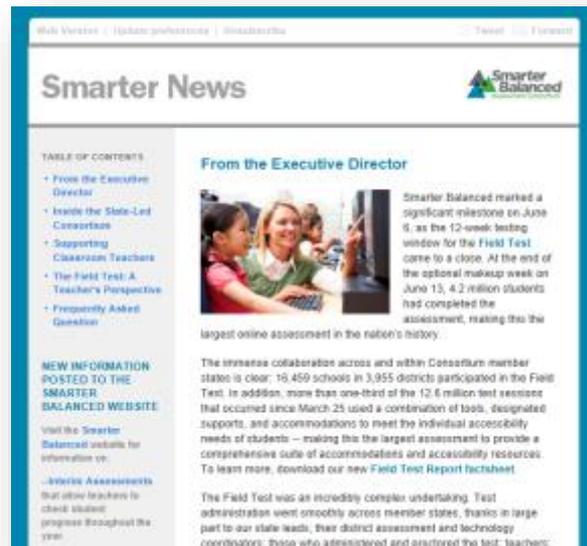
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- Student Assessment Newsletter
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SAN
- Student Assessment Web page
[www.ct.gov/sde/Student Assessment](http://www.ct.gov/sde/Student%20Assessment)



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STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
September 18, 2015

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov
860-713-6860

Read the Student Assessment News
www.ct.gov/sde/SAN



Questions



Questions

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