

December 5, 2013

# Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium e-Alert

Connecticut State Department of Education

## Connecticut's Smarter Balanced e-Alert

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) e-Alert system provides updates on the development of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System as it relates to Connecticut educators and students.

## Smarter Balanced Field Test Special Populations Packet

In October the CSDE released the [Smarter Balanced Field Test Special Populations Packet](#). The packet contains testing information regarding the 2014 Field Test. For more information visit the [Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Information](#) page located on the CSDE Web site.

## 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test

Information regarding the 2014 Field Test, including answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#). Connecticut's [Smarter Balanced Web page on the CSDE Web site](#) provides information as it pertains to Connecticut.



## Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments - Coming Fall of 2014

The Smarter Balanced interim assessments are designed to provide feedback about student progress toward college and career readiness before the year-end summative assessment. They can be administered at various points during the year to support instructional decisions at the student level. They will also give teachers and students insights about the item types and performance expectations that students will encounter during the summative assessment.

As much as possible, the interim assessments are being designed to look, feel, and perform like the summative assessment. They will be delivered to students through the same online test interface and will be adaptive as appropriate. The interim assessment system will feature the same types of items and performance tasks as on the summative assessment. Unlike the summative assessment items, interim assessment items are non secure.

Two options will give schools and teachers the flexibility to administer the interim assessments in a way that best meets their needs.

- The **Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA)** will mirror the summative assessment. The ICA will feature a computer adaptive component and performance tasks. In addition, the same information as the summative assessment will be reported: overall composite scale score, achievement levels, and claim-level information. The use of the ICA is flexible. For example, teachers may administer the ICA mid-year to benchmark performance for a class, or may give the assessment to new students to better understand their skills and knowledge with regard to the summative assessment.
- **Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB)** will focus on a smaller set of skills and are designed to provide targeted information about student performance for teachers. Results will be reported in a manner consistent with the level of detail on the summative assessment. Like the ICA, the use of the IAB will be flexible. For example, teachers may use an IAB at the end of a unit of instruction to check students' understanding or a district could choose to administer an IAB to all students in a particular grade.

Interim assessments are a critical component of a balanced assessment system designed to improve teaching and learning. The ICA and the IAB will allow teachers to tailor the interim assessments based on their individual needs.

Contact the Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-713-6860 or at [SmarterBalancedCT@ct.gov](mailto:SmarterBalancedCT@ct.gov) with questions related to Smarter Balanced.

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