

October 9 , 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 is available to provide updates on the development of the Smarter Balanced Assessment system as it relates to Connecticut educators.

Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines

The Governing States of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium recently approved the [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines](#) in advance of the 2014 Field Test of the summative assessment. The development of the guidelines included feedback from states, advisory panels for English language learners and students with disabilities, and national organizations.



Smarter Balanced Practice Test

To help schools prepare for the 2014 – 2015 school year, Smarter Balanced recently released online [Practice Tests](#) in Grades 3 - 8 and 11 in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. The Practice Tests provide an opportunity for teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders to experience the features of online testing and gain insight into how Smarter Balanced will assess students' mastery of the Common Core.

Important Limitations: The Practice Tests provide a preview of the Smarter Balanced assessments, but they do not encompass the full range of content that students will encounter on the spring 2014 Field Test or on the operational assessments, and should not be used to guide instructional decisions.

Resources in Spanish

A [Spanish resource section](#) has been added to the Smarter Balanced Web site that contains downloadable fact sheets for teachers, parents, and students. The webpage provides information about the assessment system and the consortium's work to meet the needs of all students, including English language learners (ELLs).

Assessment Literacy Workshops

Save The Dates: *November 13, 14, 18, and 19*

The Assessment Literacy Workshops will provide participants with information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. District teams will participate in a one-day workshop that will include an overview of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System and an overview of the assessment system specific to mathematics and English language arts/Literacy. Content specific presentations will be delivered in concurrent breakout sessions. Participants in both groups will examine how the Smarter Balanced assessments will assess the Common Core State Standards, and how the assessment provides indicators of progress towards college and career readiness.

Contact the Bureau of Student Assessment at 860-713-6860 for questions related to Smarter Balanced.

CSDE's Smarter Balanced e-Alert

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