



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Overview of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

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 will be available in 2016.
- 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 assessment item bank will be increased using items from the 2015 embedded field test to reduce overlap
- Future field testing will allow for a larger item bank 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>

Home Get Started ▾ Resources ▾ FAQs Supported Browsers Register for email updates | Manage Settings

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SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

 Online Reporting System	 Interim Assessment Classroom Activities	 TA Practice & Training Site
 TIDE	 Teacher Hand Scoring System <small>System is Not Currently Open</small>	 Digital Library
 Test Administration Certification	 Test Administration	 Assessment Viewing Application
 Smarter Balanced Resources	 Manuals for Online Testing	

Welcome Smarter Balanced Assessment!

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

 **Announcements**

- **TIDE and How to Start/Monitor Online Testing and Test Settings Training Webinar**
This training webinar will be offered on **Tuesday, December 1, 2015 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.** and **Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.** It is intended for District Administrators, District Test Coordinators, and School Coordinators. It will provide an overview of how to navigate the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and the Test Delivery System (TDS). Participants will learn how to add users in TIDE, add and manage rosters, set student settings in TIDE, and start and monitor a test session using the TA Interface.
Register for the webinar you wish to attend by clicking on the date below. After registering, a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar will be sent.

Training Dates

- December 1, 2015, 3:30 – 4:30 pm ET
- December 3, 2015, 3:30 – 4:30 pm ET

Added November 23, 2015

- TIDE will be down for maintenance **Tuesday, October 13th, 5:00 – 5:30pm ET**. We apologize for any inconvenience.
Added October 12, 2015
- The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics are available for administration from October 9, 2015 to June 10, 2016. Information on navigating the TA Interface can be found in the **TA User Guide** and on the **How to Activate a Test Session for the Interim Assessments** guide.
Users will need TIDE credentials to log in to the TA Interface. **All TIDE accounts** have been reset for the 2015–2016 school year. If users have not received new TIDE credentials from AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org, please follow the instructions for resetting passwords in





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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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Online Reporting System



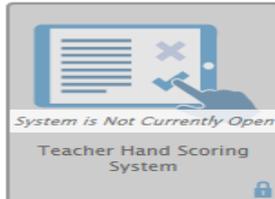
Interim Assessment Classroom Activities



TA Practice & Training Site



TIDE



System is Not Currently Open
Teacher Hand Scoring System



Digital Library



Test Administration Certification



Test Administration



Assessment Viewing Application



Smarter Balanced Resources



Manuals for Online Testing

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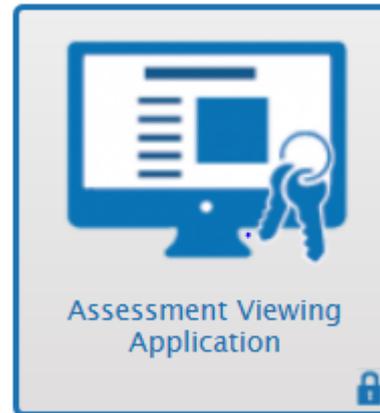
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instructions for resetting passwords in [the TA User Guide](#) or contact the Help Desk at 1-844-333-3333 or ask@air.org.

Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) used to score constructed response test items will be updated by the end of the year.



Assessment Viewing Application





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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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Online Reporting System



Interim Assessment Classroom Activities



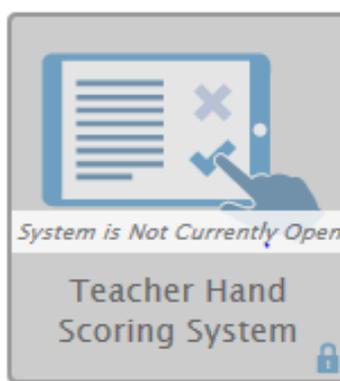
TA Practice & Training Site



TIDE



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Teacher Hand Scoring System



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The Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) used to score Interim Assessment constructed response test items will be released at a later date.

Added October 9, 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)



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Online Reporting System



Interim Assessment Classroom Activities



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Added October 9, 2015



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/XmZNS0MFO1>

[@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



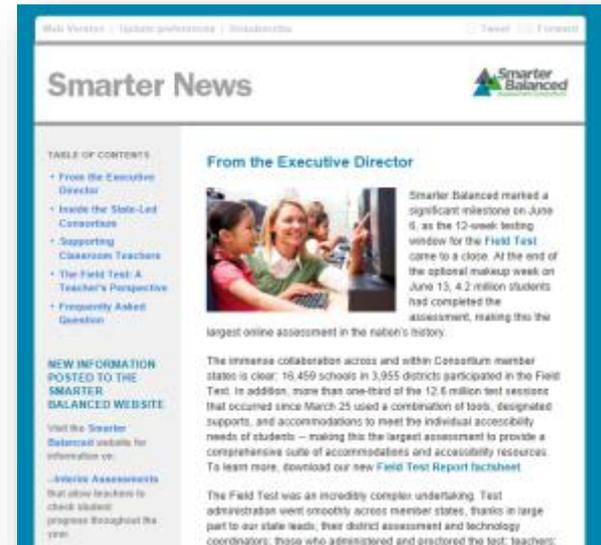
Learn More

- Connecticut State Department of Education
Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal
<http://ct.portal.airast.org>
- Student Assessment Newsletter
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SAN
- Student Assessment Web page
www.ct.gov/sde/StudentAssessment



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COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
September 18, 2015

[Archived Student Assessment News](http://www.ct.gov/sde/SAN)
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov
860-713-6860

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

