

SBA: Overview

Next-Generation Assessments

Background Info

California is one of many states transitioning to new, next-generation assessments as part of the new educational benchmarks set by the Common Core State Standards.



- The Smarter Balanced Assessments will measure the full understanding of the Common Core State Standards in math and English language arts/literacy.
- Students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will take the new assessments — all online, on electronic devices.
- The Smarter Balanced Assessments will offer yearly, as well as interim assessments, based on the Common Core State Standards to monitor student learning throughout the year and ensure all students are on-track for college and career.

The results of these new assessments will serve as a baseline for measuring our students' understanding of the new Common Core State Standards.

- As with any major shift, we should be prepared for our scores to look different from the previous state tests in English language arts and math, since our standards in these subjects have changed along with the shift to Common Core.
- We must remember that this is a starting point — a baseline. We will learn, adapt and grow together as we move forward.

The new Smarter Balanced Assessments will be given electronically, which provides multiple benefits to students, teachers, and the broader education system as a whole.

- Our students will take the un-timed assessments using electronic devices, instead of the old paper-and-pencil approach.
 - This reduces testing time, and allows teachers to follow-up with targeted instruction to ensure all students are on track for college and career.
 - The assessments will be given using “computer adaptive testing,” which means that test questions become harder or easier, depending on a student’s previous answers. The goal is to measure what students know, which provides a more accurate measure of a student’s achievement level.

