

Assessment Fact Sheet

Smarter Balanced Tools for Teachers



What Is Tools for Teachers?

Tools for Teachers is an online collection of instructional and professional learning formative assessment resources aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy and mathematics and the California Next Generation Science Standards. It includes lessons designed to enhance instruction, save teachers time in lesson planning, help boost student learning, and support curriculum planning and implementation. The content is created by educators and serves as a formative assessment component of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System.



Why Use Tools for Teachers?

Tools for Teachers offers instructional resources that provide subject- and grade-specific content for educators based on learning standards. Each resource is vetted by trained educators using quality criteria and includes recommended instructional strategies for meeting diverse student needs. A key part of Tools for Teachers is the Interim Assessment Connections Playlists, which provide instructional resources aligned with the content covered by Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). When playlist resources are used in conjunction with student results on the IABs, teachers have the information they need to decide where to focus their next steps for instruction.



Who Uses Tools for Teachers?

Tools for Teachers is available to kindergarten through grade twelve educators—including teachers, instructional coaches, and assessment coordinators—working in California local educational agencies (LEAs).



How to Access Tools for Teachers

Tools for Teachers is available on the Tools for Teachers website at <https://smartertoolsforteachers.org>. The website has a public landing page that anyone can access to view two full resources, watch two videos, and search for resource overviews using key words and filters. An account is required for full access. All Test Operations Management System roles, which are assigned by LEA or school site coordinators, include full access for LEA staff.

In addition, self-registration is available to anyone who has an LEA-based email account. Access the California Department of Education (CDE) How to Self-Register for Tools for Teachers Quick Reference Guide at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/qrgt4tselfregister.pdf>.



When to Use Tools for Teachers

The Tools for Teachers website is available year-round.

For additional information, visit the CDE Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/sbacinterimassess.asp>.



July 2023