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Estimated Cost Comparison: Current Assessment System Compared to Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Current Assessment System				Smarter Balanced			
Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR): California Standards Tests (CSTs) and California Modified Assessment (CMA) ¹				Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments			
Subjects: English–Language Arts and Mathematics ²				Subjects: English–Language Arts and Mathematics			
Grades tested: grades 3–8 ³				Grades tested: grades 3–8 and 11			
Number students tested: approximately 2,750,000 ²				Number students tested: approximately 3,200,000			
		Costs				Costs	
Test Construction	Forms construction, blueprint alignment, content and bias reviews, etc.	\$3.6 million ⁴ \$1.30 per pupil		Test Construction	Ongoing maintenance of assessment system: validation research, blueprint alignment, accommodations and accessibility research, etc.	\$9.55 million \$9.55 per pupil (1 million cap)	
Delivery/Administration	25-day window Paper and pencil			Item Development	Ongoing refreshment of test items		
Reporting Results	Preliminary 10–12 days after all testing LEA reports (July 1–August 8) State level internet reports (August 15) Student reports (August/September)	\$36.4 million ⁴ \$13.23 per pupil		Locally-administered Assessments	Formative assessments (grades K–12) Interim assessments (grades 3–11)		
Costs for 2014 test administration:		\$40 million		Delivery/Administration	Window: to be determined Computer-based testing Computer Adaptive Paper and pencil (option)	\$56.8 million ⁶ \$17.75 per pupil ⁶	
Per pupil rate:		\$14.54		Reporting Results	LEA reports State level internet reports Student reports		
Locally-administered Assessments	Interim testing paid for by LEAs ⁵	\$40.4 million ⁵ \$14.71 per pupil ⁵		Technology Services	Hosting of computer-based testing	To be determined	
Item Development	Average annual item development costs for a 35 percent item refresh rate per test from 2010 through 2012.	\$1.96 million ⁴ \$0.71 per pupil		Costs for 2015 test administration:		\$66.35 million + Technology Services	
Local Assessments and Item Development costs:		\$42.36 million		Overall per pupil rate:		\$27.30 + Technology Services	
Per pupil rate:		\$15.40					
Overall costs:		\$82.36 million					
Overall per pupil rate:		\$29.94					

¹The STAR CMA will also be replaced by Smarter Balanced assessments. The Smarter Balanced design does not require a separate assessment for students with disabilities that were administered the STAR CMA.

²Approximately 450,000 students in grade 10 will also be assessed with ESEA-required STAR assessments in science (\$2 million in additional costs).

³California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) grade 10 ELA and math results are currently used for accountability reporting.

⁴STAR administration costs are based on contract costs budgeted for a 2014 test administration for CSTs and CMA assessments in ELA and math for grades 3–8 only. Average annual STAR item development costs are based on contract costs budgeted from 2010–2012. No further item development was budgeted after 2012. Note: The current STAR costs for all subjects (ELA, math, science, and history–social science) in grades 2–11 is approximately \$51 million to test approximately 4.8 million students (approximately \$10.62 per pupil).

⁵The STAR Program does not include formative or interim assessments. The current LEA cost for interim assessments is estimated to be approximately \$14.71 per pupil per the 2013 report *Developing Assessments of Deeper Learning: The Costs and Benefits of Using Tests that Help Students Learn* by Linda Darling-Hammond and Frank Adamson.

⁶The Smarter Balanced state-managed cost estimate of \$17.75 per pupil is based on estimates as of August 14, 2013, and is subject to contract negotiations.