

Assessment Fact Sheet

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments for ELA and Mathematics



What are interim assessments?

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are part of California's system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are optional tests that measure what students know and can do using the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.

The interim assessments are versatile and can be administered to students in either a standardized (benchmark) or nonstandardized (formative) manner, or used by school and district staff for professional development. There are two kinds of Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments—interim comprehensive assessments (ICAs) and interim assessment blocks (IABs). More than 240 Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are available for use. ICAs are built on the same blueprint as the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Each ICA contains approximately 35–45 items. IABs focus on smaller sets of targets to provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. Each IAB contains approximately 5–15 items.



Why are interim assessments given?

The purpose of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments is to provide educators and administrators with results they can use to support teaching and learning. In addition, the interim assessments provide meaningful information for gauging student progress toward mastery of the skills measured by the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.



Who takes interim assessments?

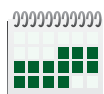
Although developed for students in grades three through eight and high school, the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments can be administered to students at any grade level—kindergarten through grade twelve.



How are interim assessments given?

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are computer-based tests. Unlike the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, which are adaptive, the interim assessments have a fixed number of items.

Some interim assessments contain items that require hand scoring. All hand scoring must be completed locally by school or district staff.



When are interim assessments given?

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are available for use at any time during the year. The timing and frequency of interim assessment use are locally determined.

For additional information, visit the [California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments web page](#).



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