The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are part of California’s system of assessments called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The summative assessments are an annual measure of what students know and can do using the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

The purpose of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments is to assess student knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, as well as how much students have improved since the previous year (student growth). These measures help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so students get the support they need for success in higher grades and become ready for college or a career.

All students in grades three through eight and grade eleven take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments unless a student’s active individualized education program (IEP) designates the California Alternate Assessments.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments are computer-adaptive tests that adjust the difficulty of questions on the basis of the answers students give. As students answer correctly, they receive more challenging questions. Incorrect answers trigger easier questions. This approach helps keep students engaged, shortens testing time for many students, and provides more accurate results, especially for low- or high-achieving students.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are administered during the local educational agency’s selected test window. Most schools will test between the middle of March and the middle of May.

For additional information, visit the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/index.asp.