California Assessment of
Student Performance and Progress

Grades
3 • 4 • 5

Teacher Guide

to the Smarter Balanced Assessments

Mathematics

California Department of Education

Acknowledgments

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Introduction

The purpose of the Teacher Guide is to deepen teachers' understanding of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, their alignment with the California Common Core State Standards (CA CCSS), and their intended connection to classroom learning. The guide for mathematics is grade-span specific and synthesizes key information from a wide array of resources and resource sites, including:

- California Common Core State Standards
- *California Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve (Mathematics Framework)*
- Content, item, task, and stimulus specifications
- Smarter Balanced Test Blueprints
- Smarter Balanced Practice Test Scoring Guides
- Smarter Balanced Communication Tools
- Smarter Balanced Digital Library

The mathematics guides are organized by grade span to highlight the changes in expectations as students move through the grade levels. Within the guides there are examples from Smarter Balanced Item Specifications that explain how student skills and knowledge are assessed and reported through collecting and scoring evidence. This grades three through five guide has an example from Claim 1, Concepts and Procedures, Grade Five. The grades six through eight guide shows a specification for Claim 3, Communicating Reasoning, Grade Eight, and the high school guide shows an example from Claim 4, Modeling and Data Analysis. The guide also provides examples of the range and types of items that appear on the assessments and the multiple resources that are available to teachers, students, and parents to "de-mystify" the assessments.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System.

The new Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are different from the previous tests included in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program in several ways including:

- Designed to measure the expectations embodied in the CA CCSS adopted by the California State Board of Education in August 2010
- Emphasize deeper knowledge of core concepts and ideas within and across the disciplines along with analysis, synthesis, problem solving, communication, and critical thinking
- Include a greater variety of item types
- Capitalize on the strengths of computer adaptive testing (CAT), such as efficient and precise measurement across the full range of achievement
- Provide greater opportunities for classroom teachers to influence the design and operation of the assessment system

Section One: Purpose of the Guide—Resource for Planning Learning Events to Implement the Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools for Kindergarten through Grade Twelve Public Schools

These Teacher Guides are intended to be a resource for classroom teachers as they plan learning activities that fully implement the California *Mathematics Framework* using assessment feedback from the Smarter Balanced system of assessments.

Figure 1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Feedback Loop

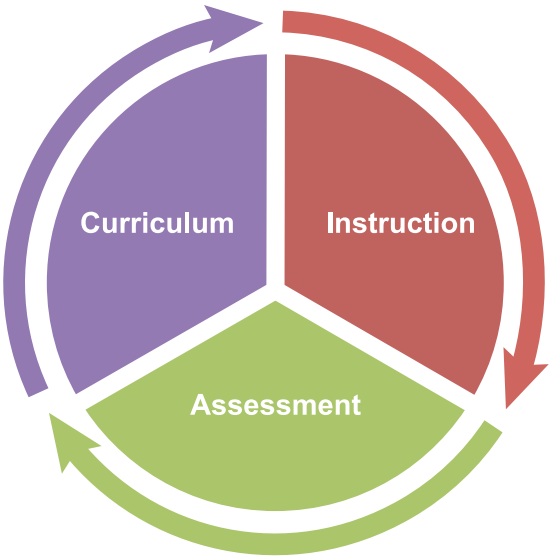


Figure 1 shows the continuous feedback loop between curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Teachers use curriculum to plan instruction and use evidence from a variety of assessments to determine next steps in the teaching and learning cycle. The *Mathematics Framework* not only describes the state standards and research-based practices that support the standards, but connects overarching themes and the instructional shifts in the standards. Smarter Balanced assessment developers used similar overarching themes, instructional shifts, and understanding of the CA CCSS to build a fair and accurate assessment of the standards. They developed performance tasks and innovative items not seen before on large-scale state assessments to meet the demands of the key themes and the 21st century learning described below. The *Mathematics Framework* and Smarter Balanced assessments can function together to provide accurate and consistent evidence around the feedback loop.

Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

The first stop for teachers in planning learning events is the *Mathematics Framework*. The guidance in this resource is research-based and includes practical examples to help all teachers.

Guiding Principles behind the development of the *Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* (2015):[1]

- Mathematical ideas should be explored in ways that stimulate curiosity, create enjoyment of mathematics, and develop depth of understanding.
- An effective mathematics program is based on a carefully designed set of content standards that are clear and specific, focused, and articulated over time as a coherent sequence.
- Technology is an essential tool that should be used strategically in mathematics education.
- All students should have a high-quality mathematics program that prepares them for college and careers.
- Assessment of student learning in mathematics should take many forms to inform instruction and learning.

Guiding Principle 1: Learning

Mathematical ideas should be explored in ways that stimulate curiosity, create enjoyment of mathematics, and develop depth of understanding.

For students to achieve mathematical understanding, instruction and learning must balance mathematical procedures and conceptual understanding. Students should be actively engaged in doing meaningful mathematics, discussing mathematical ideas, and applying mathematics in interesting, thought-provoking situations. Student understanding is further developed through ongoing reflection about cognitively demanding and worthwhile tasks.

1 Introduction of the *Mathematics Framework* (2015), California Department of Education, Sacramento, CA, page 3 (found on the CDE Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/).

The Smarter Connection

Smarter Balanced math assessments use a variety of item types and performance assessment tasks to challenge students in multiple ways. The items and tasks are reviewed by teachers to make sure they will engage the student's curiosity and encourage them to dig deeper for innovative solutions to uncommon problems.

Tasks should be designed to challenge students in multiple ways. Short- and long-term investigations that connect procedures and skills with conceptual understanding are integral components of an effective mathematics program. Activities should build upon students' curiosity and prior knowledge and enable them to solve progressively deeper, broader, and more sophisticated problems.[2]

Guiding Principle 2: Teaching

An effective mathematics program is based on a carefully designed set of content standards that are clear and specific, focused, and articulated over time as a coherent sequence.

The sequence of topics and instruction should be based on what is known about how students' mathematical knowledge, skill, and understanding develop over time. What and how students are taught should reflect not only the topics within mathematics but also the key ideas that determine how knowledge is organized and generated within mathematics.

Mathematical problem solving is the hallmark of an effective mathematics program. Skill in mathematical problem solving requires practice with a variety of mathematical problems as well as a firm grasp of mathematical techniques and their underlying principles. Armed with this deeper knowledge, students can use mathematics in flexible ways to attack various problems and devise different ways to solve any particular problem.

The Smarter Connection

Smarter Balanced worked with the Common Core authors to build a tight alignment to the grade by grade learning progressions and the priority and supporting standards tested at each grade. Students highlight their skill in problem solving through the performance assessment task that combines problems to build a solution that is clearly communicated with sufficient evidence.

2 Ibid. page 4

Mathematical problem solving calls for reflective thinking, persistence, learning from the ideas of others, and reviewing one's own work with a critical eye. Students should be able to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. They should analyze situations and justify their conclusions, communicate their conclusions to others, and respond to the arguments of others.[3]

Guiding Principle 3: Technology

Technology is an essential tool that should be used strategically in mathematics education.

Technology enhances the mathematics curriculum in many ways. Tools such as measuring instruments, manipulatives (such as base-ten blocks and fraction pieces), scientific and graphing calculators, and computers with appropriate software, if properly used, contribute to a rich learning environment for investigating, exploring, developing, and applying mathematical concepts. Appropriate use of calculators is essential; calculators should not be used as a replacement for basic understanding and skills. Elementary students should learn how to perform the basic arithmetic operations independent of the use of a calculator (National Center for Education Statistics 1995). The use of a graphing calculator can help middle school and secondary students visualize properties of functions and their graphs. Graphing calculators should be used to enhance—not replace—student understanding and skills.

The Smarter Connection

Innovative items have been developed specifically for the Smarter Balanced assessments to engage students in real-world scenarios with multiple modes of response. All mathematics tools, including calculators, are embedded in the testing software. Test sections may be designed with "No Calculator" to conform to the Smarter Balanced calculator use policy that implements the intent of the Common Core State Standards.

Technology changes the mathematics to be learned, as well as when and how it is learned. For example, currently available technology provides a dynamic and exploration-driven approach to mathematical concepts such as functions, rates of change, geometry, and averages that was not possible in the past.[4]

3 Ibid. page 4

4 Ibid. page 5

Guiding Principle 4: Equity

All students should have a high-quality mathematics program that prepares them for college and careers.

The standards provide clear signposts along the way to the goal of college and career readiness for all students; they also accommodate a broad range of students, from those requiring a significant amount of extra support in mathematics to others needing minimal support or enrichment opportunities. To promote achievement of these standards, teachers should plan for, instruct, model, and support classroom discourse, reflection, use of multiple problem-solving strategies, and a positive disposition toward mathematics. They should have high expectations for all students. At every level of the education system, teachers should act on the belief that every child can and should learn challenging mathematics.

Because mathematics is the cornerstone of many disciplines, a comprehensive curriculum should include applications to everyday life and modeling activities that demonstrate the connections among disciplines. Schools should also provide opportunities for communicating with experts in applied fields to enhance students' knowledge of these connections.[5]

The Smarter Connection

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and formative assessment resources in the Digital Library support teachers to identify gaps in student knowledge and gain insight into student thinking. Partnerships with mathematics teachers and researchers continue to enhance the professional learning and instructional resources that support effective classroom-based assessment.

Guiding Principle 5: Assessment

Assessment of student learning in mathematics should take many forms to inform instruction and learning.

A comprehensive assessment program is an integral component of an instructional program. It provides students with frequent feedback on their performance, teachers with diagnostic tools for gauging students' depth of understanding of mathematical concepts and skills, parents with information about their children's performance in the context of program goals, and administrators with a means for measuring student achievement.

5 Ibid. page 6

Assessments take a variety of forms, require different amounts of time, and address various aspects of student learning. Gaps in knowledge and errors in reasoning can be identified when students "think aloud" or talk through their reasoning. By observing and questioning students as they work, teachers can gain insight into students' abilities to apply appropriate mathematical concepts and skills, make conjectures, and draw conclusions.

The Smarter Connection

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and formative assessment resources in the Digital Library support teachers to identify gaps in student knowledge and gain insight into student thinking. Partnerships with mathematics teachers and researchers continue to enhance the professional learning and instructional resources that support effective classroom-based assessment.

Assessment should also be a major component of the learning process. As students help identify goals for lessons or investigations, they gain greater awareness of what they need to learn and how they will demonstrate that learning. Engaging students in this kind of goal setting can help them reflect on their work, understand the standards to which they are held accountable, and take ownership of their learning.[6]

Learning in the 21st Century

In supporting 21st century learning, California is part of a growing national movement to teach students the problem-solving skills and critical thinking they need for college, careers, and civic life. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) developed a framework for 21st century learning comprising student outcomes and support systems. The student outcomes consist of the following elements:

- Core subjects and 21st century interdisciplinary themes, which include global awareness; financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy; civic literacy; health literacy; and environmental literacy
- Life and career skills, which include flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility

6 Ibid. page 7

- Learning and innovation skills, often referred to as the "4 Cs": creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication, and collaboration
- Information, media, and technology skills, which include information literacy, media literacy, and ICT (information, communications, and technology) literacy.

Support systems provided by P21 include standards and assessments, curriculum and instruction, professional development, and learning environments.[7]

The *Mathematics Framework* guiding principles are important to keep in mind when planning learning activities. Daily opportunities to engage in rich learning using 21st century skills keep students engaged and develop students as partners in their own learning.

The Smarter Connection

Smarter Balanced performance assessment tasks were designed to meet the requirements of 21st century learning. The topics are real-world examples of issues that engage students. The performance tasks (PTs) are designed to elicit evidence of critical thinking, creative thinking, and consideration of the local and global impact of the issues.

7 Ibid. page 7

Section Two: Understanding and Using Smarter Balanced Test Design Principles to Support Classroom Learning Events

This section describes the evidence-centered design of the Smarter Balanced assessments and the hierarchical approach to item development. There are examples of how the test developers and teachers use evidence to accurately assess the learning required by the CA CCSS. Connecting the use of evidence-centered design and classroom learning activities allows a strong connection between Smarter Balanced results and resources.

Understanding the Fundamentals of Smarter Balanced Design

Knowing how the Smarter Balanced assessment system is developed, particularly how items are developed, can be helpful in understanding how to make the best use of the assessment resources and results. This knowledge should facilitate increasing the intentional connection between curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

The CA CCSS in Mathematics include content standards and standards for mathematical practice. In order to fully align the assessment to all of these standards, the Smarter Balanced test design has grade-level priority and supporting content clusters as assessment targets for Claim 1. For Claims 2, 3, and 4, the standards for mathematical practice emphasized at each claim and grade level are the assessment targets. (See the Mathematics Summative Assessment Blueprint on the Smarter Balanced Development and Design Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/, under the Summative Test Blueprints tab, for grade-by-grade assessment targets in all claims.) The performance task in each grade uses priority content to frame a multi-step task and collect evidence on the student's ability to use content knowledge and mathematical practices effectively to solve the problems and communicate the rationale with supporting evidence.

The diagram and charts on the following pages describe the structure of Smarter Balanced item specifications—how evidence-centered design is used to develop items. A mathematics, grade five example is used here from Claim 1. While it is certainly not necessary to memorize this information, having a working knowledge of item development can facilitate use of results to enhance learning events. This item specification information is available for all Smarter Balanced assessments in resources listed at the end of this document.

Smarter Balanced has provided a zip file for each Claim and Grade of the item specifications used by test item writers to develop questions which can be found on the Smarter Balanced Development and Design Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/ under the Item and Task Specification tab. You will be able to see exactly what instructions were given to clarify what was being tested and how to make sure there was tight alignment to the standards being assessed. The priority and supporting/additional domains and clusters tested in Claim 1 have statements describing **evidence required** to demonstrate deep understanding of the standards. In Claims 2, 3, and 4, the Standards for Mathematical Practice are being tested in the context of real-world problems. For these claims, the item specifications describe **expectations for students to provide evidence** of the ability to apply mathematical practices to solve problems.

When you open the link above, you will see a list of zip files. Choose the grade and claim you are interested in. For example, we have provided excerpts from Claim 1, Grade Five here. Once you open the zip file, look for the assessment target. In our example in Figure 4 we are using assessment target F. We chose F because on the test design for grade five, all students receive 4–5 questions on target F. No other target in Claim 1 has as many questions.

To illustrate the importance of evidence-centered design, Figure 3 displays the relationship among the overall claims, sub-domain assessment claims, assessment targets, and academic standards. This relationship is important, not only in the design and development of the Smarter Balanced items, but also in the interpretation and reporting of scores.

This claim/target/standard relationship is clearly articulated through the steps of the evidence-centered design model that Smarter Balanced assessments employ. The first step in the evidence-centered design approach is to define the content domains to be measured; in this case, the domains are English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The next step is to define the assessment claims that will be made about the domains. Claims are arguments derived from evidence about college and career readiness; Smarter Balanced claims are statements about what a student knows and is able to do. In the Smarter Balanced system, there are two kinds of claims: an “overall claim,”

corresponding to performance on the entire assessment of English language arts/literacy or mathematics, and four domain-specific claims corresponding to performance in different areas in each of the assessments.

After carefully analyzing the CA CCSS and thinking about what students must know and be able to do in order to be prepared for college and career paths, Smarter Balanced identified four claims specific to English language arts and four claims specific to mathematics that focus on what students are expected to be able to do at each grade level.

Once the domains are defined and the claims are identified, the third step is to clearly identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) that form the content domain. In the Smarter Balanced system, the KSAs that are intended to be measured are called "assessment targets." An assessment target defines the specific KSAs that students should be able to demonstrate within the domain. A large number of assessment targets are measured in the Smarter Balanced assessment system.

Once assessment targets are defined, the fourth step focuses on identifying the types of information that need to be collected from students to allow meaningful information to be gleaned about the student's achievement of the assessment targets. The information Smarter Balanced elicits from students is considered to be evidence that can support or refute a claim about the student's achievement of the assessment target.

Once the types of evidence to collect are determined, the final step focuses on developing items or tasks that will elicit the evidence regarding the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities that are articulated in the standards.

Figure 3. Relationship Among Overall Claims, Sub-Domain Assessment Claims, Assessment Targets and Standards

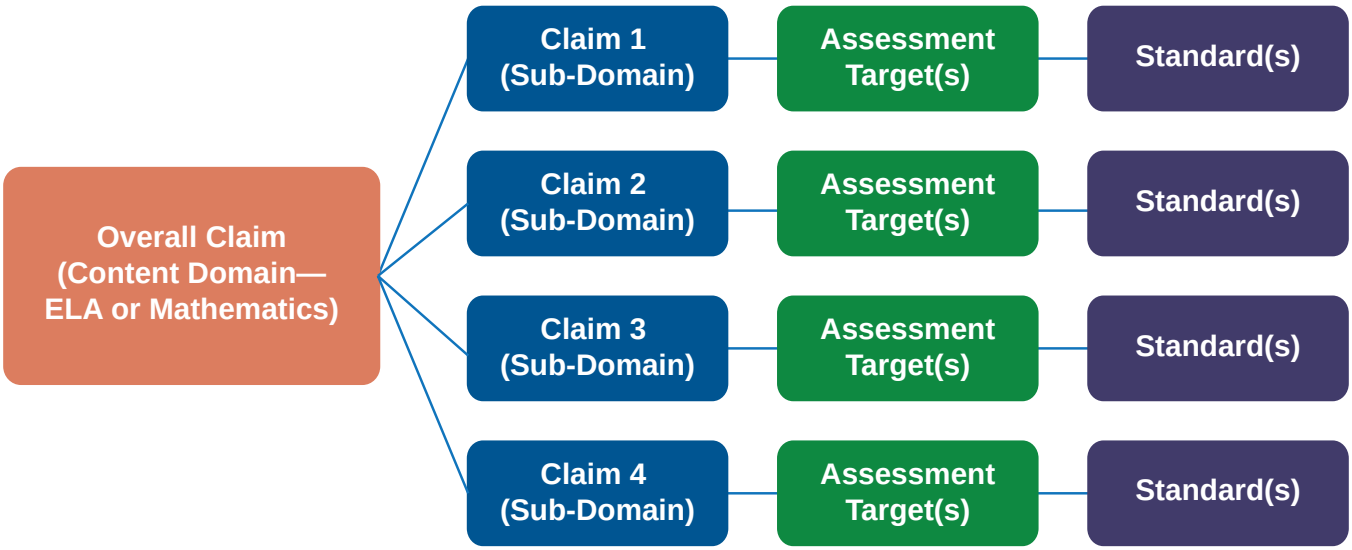


Figure 3a provides a content-specific example of the hierarchy of item development and illustrates how the domain overall claims, sub-domain assessment claims, assessment targets, and standards are connected, both in test development and reporting of scores. Recognizing the hierarchy makes the analysis of Smarter Balanced results easier to understand and emphasizes the importance of using the different levels of scores as contributors to a much larger picture.

Figure 3a. Anatomy of a Test—The Hierarchy of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Example – Mathematics—Grade Five

Overall Math Claim for Grade 5	Math Content Claims	Domain	Estimated Number of Items Per Claim	**Targets** are the bridge between the content standards and the assessment evidence that supports the claim; they ensure sufficiency of evidence to justify each claim	Associated Standard(s) and Depth of Knowledge (DOK)(s)*
Students can demonstrate progress toward college and career readiness in Mathematics	Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.	Numbers and Operations—Fractions	17–20 items	**Target F** Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.	5.NF.B, 5.NF.B.3, 5.NF.B.4, 5.NF.B.4a, 5.NF.B.4b, 5.NF.B.5, 5.NF.B.5a, 5.NF.B.5b, 5.NF.B.6, 5.NF.B.7, 5.NF.B.7a, 5.NF.B.7b, 5.NF.B.7c DOK 1,2

* The Common Core State Standards require high-level cognitive demand. The Depth of Knowledge (DOK) refers to the cognitive rigor required of students to answer a question or perform a task. Four levels of DOK are considered in Smarter Balanced assessments, with each level requiring greater cognitive demand.

Connecting the Smarter Balanced Mathematics Assessments to Classroom Learning

By examining the item specifications for Concepts and Procedures, Claim 1 (See Figure 4), teachers will be able to connect the evidence required in a Smarter Balanced assessment to learning goals and success criteria for a classroom learning event aligned to particular standards from mathematics Claim 1. The item specifications in Claim 1 detail the ways students will be tested on the deep understanding of the domains and clusters. The Development Notes of the Item Specifications describe appropriate approaches to using the same domain and cluster standards in problems to test the application of mathematical practices in Claims 2, 3, and 4.

The Smarter Connection

What Smarter Balanced resources may a teacher consider in planning learning events for students in priority clusters and supporting clusters that integrate the Standards for Mathematical Practices?

For a complete picture of an integrated approach to learning events with multiple entry points and opportunities for students to demonstrate evidence of deep understanding, cross-reference all of the grade level item specifications related to a domain and cluster in all of the Claims. (See Development Notes in Figure 4). The Smarter Balanced Item Specifications are a complex but necessary guiding resource as educators begin to analyze results. The specifications are a rich resource of information that includes the following:

- Intended claim (of what is being measured)
- Specific CA CCSS standards that are measured and connections to related standards in the grade below and the grade above
- Task models with example problems
- Types of items allowed
- Types of accommodations allowed
- Depth of knowledge, and
- Statements of evidence required of students

Often teachers want to know, “How good is good enough?” To give guidance to item writers, Smarter Balanced developed Range Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) for each grade, claim, and assessment target. These descriptions of what students should be able to do at each level of performance may guide the development of classroom rubrics and operationalize the expectations from the assessments. See the example in Figure 4:

Figure 4. Item Specification Concepts and Procedures Claim 1, Grade Five

Claim 1: Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.	
Target F: Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.	
Clarifications	Tasks for this target will ask students to multiply and divide fractions, including division of whole numbers where the answer is expressed by a fraction or mixed number. Division tasks should be limited to those that focus on dividing a unit fraction by a whole number or whole number by a unit fraction. Extended tasks posed as real-world problems related to this target will be assessed with targets from Claim 2 and Claim 4. Other tasks will ask students to find the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths or use technology-enhanced items to build visual models of multiplication and/or division of fractions, where the student is able to partition and shade circles or rectangles as part of an explanation. Students' ability to interpret multiplication as scaling will be assessed with the targets for Claim 3.
Standards 5.NF.B, 5.NF.B.3, 5.NF.B.4, 5.NF.B.4a, 5.NF.B.4b, 5.NF.B.5, 5.NF.B.5a, 5.NF.B.5b, 5.NF.B.6, 5.NF.B.7, 5.NF.B.7a, 5.NF.B.7b, 5.NF.B.7c	**5.NF.B** Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions. **5.NF.B.3** Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator ($a/b = a \div b$). Solve word problems involving division of whole numbers leading to answers in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. *For example, interpret 3/4 as the result of dividing 3 by 4, noting that 3/4 multiplied by 4 equals 3, and that when 3 wholes are shared equally among 4 people each person has a share of size 3/4. If 9 people want to share a 50-pound sack of rice equally by weight, how many pounds of rice should each person get? Between what two whole numbers does your answer lie?* **5.NF.B.4** Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction or whole number by a fraction. **a.** Interpret the product $(a/b) \times q$ as a parts of a partition of q into b equal parts; equivalently, as the result of a sequence of operations $a \times q \div b$. *For example, use a visual fraction model to show $(2/3) \times 4 = 8/3$, and create a story context for this equation. Do the same with $(2/3) \times (4/5) = 8/15$. (In general, $(a/b) \times (c/d) = ac/bd$.)*

Related Grade Four Standards 4.NF.B, 4.NF.B.4, 4.NF.B.4a, 4.NF.B.4b, 4.NF.B.4c **Related Grade Six Standards** 6.NS.A, 6.NS.A.1		**b.** Find the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths by tiling it with unit squares of the appropriate unit fraction side lengths, and show that the area is the same as would be found by multiplying the side lengths. Multiply fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles, and represent fraction products as rectangular areas.
	5.NF.B.5	Interpret multiplication as scaling (resizing), by: **a.** Comparing the size of a product to the size of one factor on the basis of the size of the other factor, without performing the indicated multiplication. **b.** Explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction greater than 1 results in a product greater than the given number (recognizing multiplication by whole numbers greater than 1 as a familiar case); explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction less than 1 results in a product smaller than the given number; and relating the principle of fraction equivalence $a/b = (n \times a)/(n \times b)$ to the effect of multiplying a/b by 1.
	5.NF.B.6	Solve real-world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.
	5.NF.B.7	Apply and extend previous understandings of division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions. **a.** Interpret division of a unit fraction by a non-zero whole number, and compute such quotients. *For example, create a story context for (1/3) ÷ 4, and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient. Use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that (1/3) ÷ 4 = 1/12 because (1/12) × 4 = 1/3.* **b.** Interpret division of a whole number by a unit fraction, and compute such quotients. F*or example, create a story context for 4 ÷ (1/5), and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient. Use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that 4 ÷ (1/5) = 20 because 20 × (1/5) = 4.* **c.** Solve real-world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions, e.g., by using visual fraction models and equations to represent the problem. For example, how much chocolate will each person get if 3 people share 1/2 lb of chocolate equally? How many 1/3-cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins?
Depth of Knowledge	DOK 1, 2	

Range Achievement Level Descriptors (ALD)	**Level 1** Students should be able to apply their previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a fraction; know the effect that whole number multiplication has on fractions; use or create visual models when multiplying a whole number by a fraction between 0 and 1; and interpret and perform division of a whole number by 1/2 or 1/3. **Level 2** Students should be able to multiply a whole number by a mixed number; know the effect that a fraction greater than or less than 1 has on a whole number when multiplied; use or create visual models when multiplying two fractions between 0 and 1; extend their previous understandings of division to divide a unit fraction by a whole number; and understand that division of whole numbers can result in fractions. **Level 3** Students should be able to multiply a mixed number by a mixed number; know the effect that a fraction has on another fraction when multiplied (proper and improper fractions); use or create visual models when multiplying two fractions, including when one fraction is larger than 1; and interpret and perform division of any unit fraction by a whole number. **Level 4** Students should be able to understand and use the fact that a fraction multiplied by 1 in the form of a/a is equivalent to the original fraction.
Evidence Required	1. The student interprets a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator. 2. The student solves problems involving division of whole numbers leading to quotients in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, with or without fraction models. 3. The student multiplies a fraction or whole number by a fraction. 4. The student multiplies fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles. 5. The student compares the size of a product to the size of one factor on the basis of the size of the other factor, without performing the indicated multiplication. 6. The student solves real-world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, with or without visual fraction models. 7. The student solves real-world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions, with or without visual fraction models.
Allowable Response Types	Multiple Choice, single correct response; Equation/Numeric
Allowable Stimulus Materials	Visual fraction models (circles, rectangles, tape diagrams, number lines)

Construct-Relevant Vocabulary	Fraction, equivalent, denominator, numerator, sum, difference, product, mixed number
Allowable Tools	Fraction modeling tool
Target-Specific Attributes	Division tasks should be limited to those dividing a unit fraction (written 1/a, such that a is any non-zero whole number) by a whole number or a whole number by a unit fraction.
Accessibility Guidance	Item writers should consider the following Language and Visual Element/Design guidelines1 when developing items. Language Key Considerations: • Use simple, clear, and easy-to-understand language needed to assess the construct or aid in the understanding of the context • Avoid sentences with multiple clauses • Use vocabulary that is at or below grade level • Avoid ambiguous or obscure words, idioms, jargon, unusual names and references Visual Elements/Design Key Considerations: • Include visual elements only if the graphic is needed to assess the construct or it aids in the understanding of the context • Use the simplest graphic possible with the greatest degree of contrast, and include clear, concise labels where necessary • Avoid crowding of details and graphics Items are selected for a student's test according to the blueprint, which selects items based on Claims and targets, not task models. As such, careful consideration is given to making sure fully accessible items are available to cover the content of every Claim and target, even if some item formats are not fully accessible using current technology.
Development Notes	The portion of this standard (5.NF.B) that requires student explanation and modeling will be assessed in Claim 3. Items posed as real-world problems related to this target will be assessed with targets from Claim 2 and Claim 4. Items asking the student to find the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths by tiling it with unit squares of the appropriate unit fraction side lengths (5.NF.B.4b) will be presented in Claim 2.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Evidence Statements Describe Learning Expectations

The Smarter Balanced assessments are designed to gather evidence from students that shows what they know about the standards. To keep the assessment consistent with the standards and classroom learning, teachers were actively engaged in the review and revision of the evidence statements to accurately describe what performance would meet the standard at a particular grade level. For the purposes of the assessments, the standards are organized into assessment target groups. As illustrated in Figure 3, the assessment targets provide a bridge between the content standards and the evidence that supports the claims.

The Smarter Connection

The evidence statements are directly aligned to the standard(s) being tested. Teachers may consider the evidence statements while planning classroom learning events, as well as success criteria for those events, so the classroom learning and the assessment expectations will be consistent.

The Smarter Balanced evidence statements aligned to domain and cluster standards are provided in the Smarter Balanced Item Specifications for Claim 1, Concepts and Procedures. For an example of a Claim 1 Item Specifications with evidence statements, see this grades three through five teacher guide, Figure 4 or all Claim 1 Item Specifications. In the grades six through eight teacher guide, Figure 4 provides an example of a grade eight mathematics item specification. In that example, there is a description of the expectations for students using mathematical practices in the context of problems using content knowledge of the priority standards as articulated in the Development Notes. In the high school guide, there is an example of item specifications for Claim 4, Modeling and Data Analysis in Figure 4.

Figure 5 describes how the Smarter Balanced expectations statements may be used in conjunction with classroom evidence to maximize opportunities for demonstrations of student learning in applying mathematical practices.

Figure 6 graphically displays the use of the Item Specifications in helping craft a classroom learning event consistent with the Smarter Balanced expectations statements in Claim 3 specifications.

Figure 5. Suggested Process to Identify Evidence Requirements From the Smarter Balanced Item Specifications

Step 1: Match the Mathematics Domain and Cluster with the Claim and corresponding Target.

Domain: Number and Operations—Fractions

Cluster: Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division.

Grade Five, Claim 1: Concepts and Procedures
Target F. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.

Step 2: Find the Evidence Statements used to write items for the test on the Smarter Balanced Development and Design Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/ under the Item and Task Specification Tab then under Math Item Specification. Also find the Mathematics General Rubrics, and Mathematics Item Specs All Grades under Math Specification and Calculator Availability by Grade Level, Mathematics Audio Guidelines, and Scoring Guide for Selected Short-Text Mathematics Items under Guidelines at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/.

Statements of Required Evidence:

1. The student interprets a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator.
2. The student solves problems involving division of whole numbers leading to quotients in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, with or without fraction models.
3. The student multiplies a fraction or whole number by a fraction.
4. The student multiplies fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles.
5. The student compares the size of a product to the size of one factor on the basis of the size of the other factor, without performing the indicated multiplication.
6. The student solves real-world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, with or without visual fraction models.
7. The student solves real-world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions, with or without visual fraction models.

Step 3: Become familiar with the task models and example questions used in developing the items so that students also gain familiarity with the vocabulary and phrasing of these task models before the test.

Example: Task Model 6

Response Type: Equation/Numeric, DOK Level 2

Prompt Features: The student is prompted to solve real-world problems involving multiplication of a fraction and a mixed number, with or without visual fraction models.

Stimulus Guidelines: Items with models do not use a partition of 1 in the model, and all models must include the same number of shaded partitions.

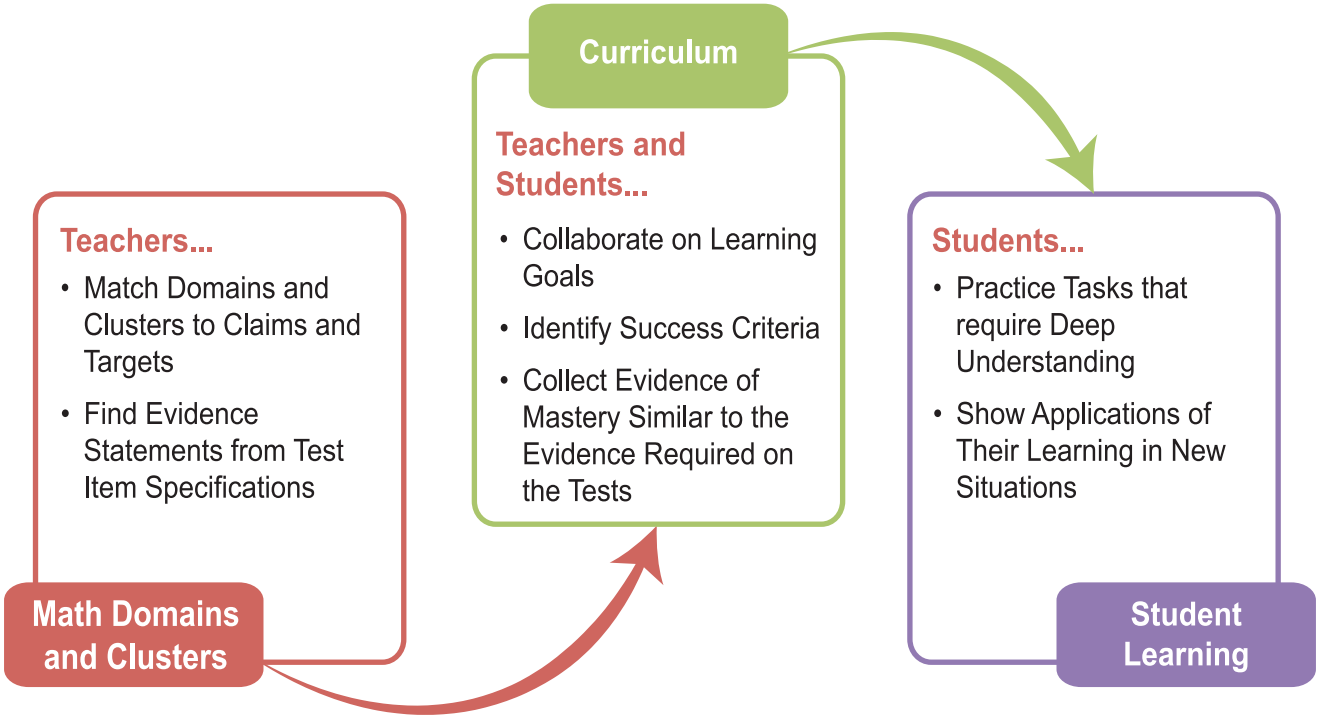
Item difficulty can be adjusted via this example method: The product is a whole number, fraction, or mixed number

TM6a

Stimulus: The student is presented with a real-world context multiplication problem involving a fraction and a mixed number.

Example Stem: Julie bikes 623 miles along the river trail on Saturday. Greg swims 34 of that distance. Enter the distance, in miles, that Greg swims.

Figure 6: How to Use the Item Specifications and Evidence Statements to Design a Lesson or Activity



Section Three: Instruction with Planned Evidence Collection and Feedback Helps Teachers and Students Improve Student Learning

How can teachers use the Smarter Balanced Tools to enhance the teaching and learning experience?

One of the many challenges for teachers in planning effective learning events for students is to know the specific needs of each student. Planned evidence collection during daily instruction using the formative assessment process, after a unit of instruction on a key topic using interim assessments, and at the end of the year with summative assessments provides a balanced view of the student's learning progress. The summative assessments can affirm the evidence collected from other sources in the classroom during the school year.

The Smarter Connection

To accurately measure student progress in learning the content standards and standards for mathematical practice, the Smarter Balanced Content Specifications describe how to develop questions across the claims that bring coherence to the body of mathematics learned at the grade level that builds from what was learned before and supports what will be learned next.

The *Mathematics Framework* emphasizes the integrated nature of mathematics domains and clusters. No standard should be taught in isolation. Students respond to high quality, real-world tasks that apply content knowledge using standards of mathematical practice.

Performance assessment tasks based on the Smarter Balanced model give students the opportunity to demonstrate a deep understanding of the problem-solving process, using modeling and data analysis, and communicating reasoning. Teachers and students can build evidence for a solution using real-world source materials and engaging, age-appropriate questions. Examples of student responses to performance tasks on the Practice Tests as well as the Range ALD descriptions are resources for teachers and students to use to develop classroom rubrics to guide the evaluation of classroom learning.

Assessment *for* Learning

The exemplar assessment reflects the classroom learning environment and experience of the student and collects evidence that can be interpreted to evaluate the student's level of understanding of the standard being assessed. This is true for classroom

assessment as well as large-scale statewide assessment. The *Mathematics Framework* distinguishes between assessment ***for*** learning and assessment ***of*** learning.[8] An annual **summative** assessment, like the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment, is an assessment *of* learning; while it does not provide teachers with immediate, actionable feedback on student learning, it can provide educators with valuable information to enhance the teaching and learning process, as well as provide a valid and reliable measure of achievement at the student, school, district, and state levels.

In contrast, assessment ***for*** learning, or **formative** assessment, occurs during instruction, allowing teachers to adapt instruction as needed. The Smarter Balanced Assessment System offers a suite of tools and resources that support classroom-based formative assessment practices. These tools are located on the the Smarter Balanced Digital Library Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/diglib.asp. The Digital Library has been built by and for educators within the Smarter Balanced Consortium. (All subscribers must provide a user name and password in order to log on to the Digital Library.)

Steps Toward Creating a More Authentic Assessment

Teachers from Smarter Balanced states, including California, participated in all phases of the test development process to push toward the delivery of an authentic assessment in a statewide system.

As part of the test development process, Smarter Balanced held cognitive labs in participating states (including California). Students were asked to talk about what they were thinking when they answered trial test questions. This way, test developers could determine if the students were actually thinking about what the question writers intended when students answered the question. Using results from the cognitive labs, the student responses confirmed that the sample questions were at the correct level of rigor and deep understanding of the standard being tested. The labs also validated the usefulness of the technology tools for students with special needs, the ability of early elementary students to use the keyboard to manipulate the technology tools, and other critical concerns addressed by the computer-based delivery of the test.

Teachers are able to make use of the Smarter Balanced CAT items and performance tasks presented on the Practice Test to see how the collection of evidence from each question adds evidence to support all the claims in an integrated and coherent approach. These Practice Tests may be used in a whole group setting, or even used as

8 See Chapter 8 of the *2014 English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework,* which is posted on the CDE's SBE-Adopted *ELA/ELD Framework* Chapters Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/cf/elaeldfrmwrksbeadopted.asp.

starting points for creating classroom items or performance tasks. Teachers can gain an understanding of how the combination of evidence adds to the overall evaluation of student understanding of the math domains and clusters as a whole. With this understanding, teachers may construct their own classroom models for collecting evidence that align pieces of evidence to each standard being assessed.

The Smarter Connection

Figure 7 provides a side-by-side comparison between the Major Principles of the California Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and the elements of the Smarter Balanced test design that support these shifts

Figure 7. Side by Side Comparison of the Major Principles of the California Common Core State Standards in Mathematics[9] and Smarter Balanced Test Design[10]

California Common Core State Standards in Mathematics Focus	Smarter Balanced Test Design Focus
Place strong emphasis where the standards focus	There are grade-level specific blueprints that detail the priority clusters and the additional and supporting clusters in Concepts and Procedures (Claim 1) which comprise 50% of the assessment. Each cluster is assigned a number of questions consistent with the grade level focus. Performance assessment tasks are developed using designated priority standards at each grade level.
California Common Core State Standards in Mathematics Coherence	**Smarter Balanced Test Design Coherence**
Think across grades, and link to major topics in each grade	The item specifications link the related standards from the grade below, grade at, and grade above to show the coherence of the content across grades.
California Common Core State Standards in Mathematics Rigor	**Smarter Balanced Test Design Rigor**
In major topics, pursue with equal intensity: • Conceptual understanding • Procedural skill and fluency • Application	Key aspects of the grade level focus standards are tested in Claims 2, 3, and 4 to demonstrate student understanding of the application of knowledge, problem-solving, and mathematical practices. The targets in Claims 2, 3, and 4 are Standards for Mathematical Practice.

9 Overview of the Standards Chapters of the *Mathematics Framework for the California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve* (2015), California Department of Education, Sacramento, CA, page10 (found on the CDE Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks Web http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/).

10 Overview of the Standards Chapters of the Mathematics Framework for the California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve (2015), California Department of Education, Sacramento, CA, page10 (found on the CDE Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks Web http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/).

Item and Task Types Collect Evidence in New Ways

The Smarter Connection

The new Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments elicit greater, more precise evidence of a student's knowledge, reasoning, and understanding.

California's previous state tests relied almost exclusively on multiple-choice questions, which are easy to score, but somewhat limited in their ability to assess higher-order thinking skills.

Item types and tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Multi-part questions that require students to use evidence from text
- Constructed-response items, which address skills of greater complexity and require students to demonstrate their thinking
- Technology-enhanced items, which require students to manipulate information
- A performance task (PT), which is an extended activity that measures students' ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards

Recommended Resource

All teachers are strongly encouraged to take the Practice Test to become familiar with the types of questions that students will be given on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The Practice Test is posted on the CAASPP Web Portal at http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html.

Accessibility Supports and Accommodations Help All Students Meaningfully Participate

The computer-adaptive Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments provide all students with greater flexibility than do traditional pencil-and-paper tests. For example, students can increase the size of an image by using the "Zoom In" option or can highlight key words as they read a passage. Additional options are available to students with special needs. The online tools and supports make the assessments accessible to students and ensure that the test results provide a fair and accurate measure of their achievement.

The Smarter Connection

The wide array of Smarter Balanced accessibility supports and accommodations make the tests more user friendly and allow students to better demonstrate what they know and are able to do in mathematics.

Three major types of supports and accommodations that are available on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are as follows:

- Universal tools, such as highlighting, digital notepads, zooming in/out, embedded glossary, writing tools for the ELA full writes, and calculators for some mathematics items—available to all students
- Designated supports, such as color contrast or masking, as well as bilingual glossaries and translated test directions—available to any student who has been identified with a special need, as determined by an educator or support team
- Accommodations, such as text-to-speech, closed captioning and on-screen American Sign Language translation—available to students with an individualized education plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan

Recommended Resource

For more information, please see the CDE CAASPP Student Accessibility Supports Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/accesssupport.asp.

Section Four: Using Smarter Balanced Score Reports to Analyze Data and Improve Learning

The third step in the feedback loop is to analyze the student data trends to evaluate the learning that has occurred by the students. Teachers compare the curriculum intended for learning by students with the curriculum actually learned as evidenced by the results on multiple measures, including the Smarter Balanced assessments. Teachers look at multiple sources of data, including individual results and class data to understand the "big picture" of student learning.

For Smarter Balanced results, each student's score is placed on a continuous scale that is able to show growth from year to year. With class-level data, teachers may identify strengths and gaps of understanding in the content areas which can lead to adjustments in the teaching and learning cycle.

The Smarter Connection

What do the results on the Smarter Balanced Assessments (summative and interim) indicate about student strengths and needs?

The Smarter Balanced assessments are designed to assess student learning at a point in time, using technology to eliminate accessibility barriers and maximize the opportunity for students to show what they know. The computer adaptive software is a critical design aspect allowing students to answer questions at an appropriate level of difficulty to collect positive evidence of knowledge that leads to an accurate score for each student.

Computer Adaptive Testing: Appropriate Assessment for Each Student

In computer adaptive testing (CAT), the computer program adjusts the difficulty of questions on the basis of student responses. For example, a student who answers a question correctly will receive a subsequent question that is more challenging, while an incorrect answer will generate a less challenging question. This approach represents a significant improvement over traditional paper-and-pencil assessments, in which all students receive the same test items, and provides teachers and schools with a more accurate way to evaluate student achievement and measure growth over time.

Practice Tests and Training Tests Available for Teachers, Students, and Parents

Teachers are able to use sample student responses and the Smarter Balanced Practice Test Scoring Guides to find comparisons to student work in their own classes or from students within the grade span. Once teachers recognize the difficulty and quality of "at standard" and "above standard" responses, they are able to plan learning progressions for students to help them move from "where they are" to "where they need to be" to improve their performance.

Recommended Resource

For more information, see the Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/.

Note: It is important that all students gain familiarity with the keyboard and are able to type text of short-to-medium length (for constructed-response items) as well as a full-length essay (for the ELA PT).

How Student Performance Is Reported on the Smarter Balanced Assessments

Recall how the Smarter Balance Summative Assessment scores are provided in different grain sizes—that is, different scores provide varying levels of detail that, taken together, can offer a productive way to examine scores. The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment is intended to be an accurate measure of student performance at a point in time that is aligned to the state standards. Overall performance on mathematics is reported for students and for subgroups of students and provides a general description of achievement. These overall scores are particularly useful in an accountability system and can be helpful in developing the Local Control Accountability Plans required of all California districts. Claim performance may be used to help teachers understand student's strengths and needs as well as the strengths of groups, e.g., grades programs, subgroups. The following is an explanation of the overall mathematics score and each content claim score.

Recommended Resource

For an explanation of the CAT of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, view the video *What Is Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)?* posted on the CAASP Current Administration of the CAASPP System Tests—Training Videos and Resources Web page at http://www.brainshark.com/ets/vu?pi=zHazEIbwozJ0cZz0&intk=189905388.

Overall Score and Achievement Level—Shows Student Performance on the Difficulty Scale

Students receive an overall scale score for Mathematics. On the mathematics assessment, Claim 1, Concepts and Procedures, is 50% of the overall score; Claims 2 and 4, Problem-solving, Modeling, and Data Analysis, are reported together for 25% of the score; and Claim 3, Communicating Reasoning is the remaining 25% of the overall score. The score falls along a continuous vertical scale (from approximately 2,000 to 3,000) that increases across grade levels. Based on this score, a student is determined to be at one of four achievement levels.

Let's consider the Mathematics scale score range for grade five, which spans almost five hundred points:

2,219 ⟷ 2,700

Within that range, there are four distinct achievement levels, as shown in Figure 10:

Figure 10. Grade Five Mathematics Scale Scores and Achievement Levels

Standard Not Met	Standard Nearly Met	Standard Met	Standard Exceeded
2219–2454	2455–2527	2528–2578	2579–2700

The achievement levels take into account the level of difficulty of the test questions. Because the test is computer adaptive, students who consistently answer correctly will be steered toward items at the higher end of the continuum, allowing for the opportunity to achieve at the Standard Exceeded level. Those who consistently answer incorrectly will be steered toward the lower end, possibly resulting in the Standard Not Met level. Regardless of the level, the score provides an accurate reflection of performance against a set of academic standards and performance expectations.

For example, teachers may look at grade-level

The Smarter Connection

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results help teachers develop lines of inquiry to improve the curriculum, enhance the teaching and learning cycle, and make learning more meaningful to students.

Recommended Resource

The tables for Smarter Balanced scale score ranges, which include the scale score ranges for ELA and mathematics by content area, grade level, and achievement level, are posted on the Smarter Balanced Scale Score Ranges web page at https://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/percentiles/.

data to observe the trends of students toward each end of the difficulty continuum. If groups of students, on average, have met or exceeded the standards, there is evidence that the classroom learning events helped students practice applying deep understandings of the standards. If groups of students, on average, have not met or nearly met the standards, then teachers may consider the types of learning events, practice, and opportunities available for students to apply those deep understandings.

Claim Level Achievement—Shows General Student Performance in Content Areas

The test reports will also highlight a student's performance on each claim for Mathematics. **A claim is a broad statement that identifies the set of knowledge and skills to be measured on the assessment.** Figure 8 identifies the claims for Mathematics.

Figure 8. Mathematics Claim Areas

Mathematics Areas (Claims) For Grades Three, Four, and Five	
Concepts & Procedures	Applying mathematical concepts and procedures
Problem Solving & Modeling/Data Analysis	Using appropriate tools and strategies to solve real world and mathematical problems
Communicating Reasoning	Demonstrating ability to support mathematical conclusions

Student performance for each claim is reported as "**Above Standard**," "**Near Standard**," or "**Below Standard.**" These are designed to be **general** indicators of the strengths or needs of the student or a group

Recommended Resource

Sample score reports for other grade levels are available on the CDE's CAASPP Student Score Report Information Web page at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppssrinfo.asp.

of students in each claim area. The number of items making up the claim performance varies based on the specifications of the test blueprint so caution must be used in the interpretations of these scores. It is recommended that other evidence be considered along with the claim score as decisions are made about curriculum and instruction.

Use Group-Level Data to Identify Trends in Curriculum Strengths and Gaps

At the end of the school year it is time to take stock of the successes in student learning. The tight alignment of the Smarter Balanced assessments to the *Mathematics Framework* makes the assessment results a valuable resource to begin an inquiry, a thoughtful deliberate discussion about how we can maximize the appropriate use of these results. The questions on page 36 can help guide a discussion of what the results show about student and group performance and the implications for building on student strengths and meeting student needs with curriculum resources.

Assessment Target Reports

Assessment Target Reports are a new resource for administrators and teachers. These reports show the relative performance of groups of students on assessment targets within a Concepts and Procedures, Claim 1, as long as there are sufficient responses (at least 10) for a particular target. The reports show how a group of students performed on a target compared to the overall performance on the test, which includes the performance on the other claims on the CAT and the performance assessment task. Mathematics is intended to be learned as an integrated content area. Using the formative assessment process, specific evidence for each target may be collected in multiple parts of an integrated task. By reflecting on students' time-on-task and their opportunities for mastery throughout the year in each target area, teachers are able to compare the intended learning of groups of students with the evidence of learning on the Smarter Balanced assessments.

Assessment target score reports should serve as a starting point in an overall investigation of students' strengths and weaknesses and constitute only one of many sources of evidence that should be used in evaluating student performance. Assessment target scores based on fewer than 50 students may be less reliable and will have fewer unique items contributing to the overall target summary. Target score reports are not appropriate for individual students.

The following chart lists the icons used to show the relative performance of students on the target versus the whole test.

Icon	Target Level	Description
+	Better than Performance on the test as a whole	This target is a relative strength. The group of students performed better on items from this target than they did on the rest of the test as a whole.
=	Similar to performance on the test as a whole	This target is neither a relative strength nor a relative weakness. The group of students performed about as well on items from this target as they did on the rest of the test as a whole.
−	Worse than performance on the test as a whole	This target is a relative weakness. The group of students did not perform as well on items from this target as they did on the rest of the test as a whole.
♦	Insufficient Information	Not enough information is available to determine whether this target is a relative strength or weakness.

The Assessment Target Report is generated for groups of students and is not available for individual students. Assessment targets for which there are at least 10 items available in the Smarter Balanced item pool are included on the Assessment Target Report.

These Assessment Target Reports may help validate other evidence of deep understanding collected during classroom instruction. A data-inquiry process using this target group-level data can be helpful at the classroom level, grade level, school level and districtwide to understand the successes and needs of students. Remember that these target results are relative to the total test score; therefore, recognizing the overall achievement level will be important in considering instructional strategies that address strengths or weaknesses.

Guiding Questions to Analyze Group-Level Data[11]

- What is the trend for this group of students related to being "on track" for college readiness? (Overall scores)
- What is the range of overall performance for my class or other groups of students? (Overall scores)
- Which claims appear to be areas of strength for my students? (Claim Achievement Levels)
- Which claims might be areas of need? (Claim Achievement Levels)
- Which targets show a variance from the whole test performance? (Assessment Target Report)
- Which curriculum resources might help me address student needs for the coming year? (Curriculum Resources)
- How do I find examples of student work that meet the goals for being "on track" for college readiness? (Practice Test Scoring Guides)
- What evidence do I need during classroom instruction to know that my students are making progress toward meeting the learning goals for each claim? (Evidence Statements from Item Specifications)
- Where might I find examples of evidence to meet the learning expectations for each claim? (Item Specifications and Practice Test Scoring Guides)
- How can I help my students gain familiarity with the types of questions that they will encounter on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments? (Item Specifications: See Appropriate Stems for Writing Items for a Target, Practice Test)
- How might I use the Smarter Balanced resources (Item Specifications, Achievement Level Descriptors, etc.) to increase my students' awareness of performance expectations?

11 Planning Curriculum for My Students Using Smarter Balanced Score Reports and Resources (2015), located on the Smarter Balanced Digital Library Web page at https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/planning-curriculum-my-students-using-smarter-balanced-score-reports-and-resources.

Section Five: Conclusion—Putting It All Together

As teachers build their understanding of the intent of the standards and the relative quality of the evidence of student understanding, they increase their capacity to make adjustments in daily classroom learning events to help students move forward to meet and exceed expectations.

The Smarter Connection

Teachers can have confidence in the reliability of the information from the Smarter Balanced assessments because of the tight alignment of the assessments to the Mathematics Framework and the customization of each student's test to get the best evidence from each student for the most accurate score.

Smarter Balanced Resources for Teachers from the Smarter Balanced Digital Library[12]

Smarter Balanced is an assessment **system** designed to support teachers and students in learning. The assessment resources complement the content standards and the instructional guidance that is provided in the *Mathematics Framework*. The Smarter Balanced test development resources, practice test scoring guides, and the different kinds of achievement level descriptors illustrate the thinking behind the assessment questions and the rationale for correct answers. The Smarter Balanced Digital Library has resources crafted by teachers, for teachers to share within the Smarter Balanced community. Below are two examples of what is contained in the Digital Library.

- Assessment Literacy Module: Understanding the Learner
  https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/understanding-learner
- Assessment Literacy Module: Students as Partners in Their Own Learning—Grades K–5
  https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/students-partners-their-own-learning-grades-k-5
- Illustrative Mathematics Multiplying Fractions Module
  https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/illustrative-mathematics-multiplying-fractions-module
- Illustrative Mathematics Fluency Module
  https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/illustrative-mathematics-fluency-module

12 To access the links for these resources, the user must be logged into the Smarter Balanced Digital Library.

Formative Assessment Process

Teaching includes the formative assessment process with rigorous tasks. Lessons with formative assessments clarify the student learning goals and success criteria and elicit evidence of student understanding. As teachers interpret this evidence, instruction may be adjusted to optimize learning. Learning is accomplished when students demonstrate and apply the knowledge and skills of the standards. Students take an active role in their learning by using rubrics for self-assessment and peer assessment. Students collaborate with teachers to plan next steps to move up the learning progression and apply what they know to new situations to solve real-world problems.

Using the formative assessment process in conjunction with the Smarter Balanced resources, tools, and results, can maximize the use of assessments and assessment data in the teaching and learning cycle.

Below are additional Smarter Balanced resources that can support and enhance teaching and learning.

Digital Library

- Assessment Literacy Module: Understanding the Formative Assessment Process
  https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/understanding-formative-assessment-process

Smarter Balanced Web Site

- *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Signing Guidelines*

  Located on the Smarter Balanced Development and Design Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/ under the Item and Task Specifications Tab then under Guidelines

- *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Tactile Accessibility Guidelines*

  Located on the Smarter Balanced Development and Design Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/ under the Item and Task Specifications Tab then under Guidelines

- *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Bias and Sensitivity Guidelines*

  Located on the Smarter Balanced Development and Design Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/ under the Item and Task Specifications Tab then under Guidelines

WestEd Web Site

- Understanding Proficiency

  Located on the WestEd Understanding Proficiency Web page at http://understandingproficiency.wested.org

- Raising the Bar on Instruction

  Located on the WestEd Research-based tools, resources, and services Web page at http://raisingthebar.wested.org

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

- Information about the CAASPP System of assessments is available at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/
- Access to the Formative Assessment in Action Video Series is available at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/diglib.asp
- The Digital Library Professional Development Series is available at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/instructlearning.asp