

Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)

Interims that provide more specific, actionable data on student performance



In the 2019–20 school year, Smarter Balanced will begin releasing new Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) focused on fewer assessment targets than most current IABs. These focused IABs are designed to measure smaller bundles of content to give teachers a better understanding of students' knowledge and academic performance and provide teachers with precise next steps for instruction.

The 107 existing IABs will continue to be available to educators. These 107 include some IABs that meet the definition of a focused IAB: 19 in ELA that assess 1 target, and 20 in mathematics that assess 1–3 targets. Both existing IABs and new focused IABs consist of 10–15 items.

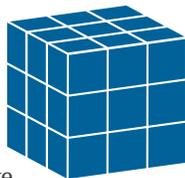
INTERIM ASSESSMENTS AT A GLANCE

Interim Comprehensive Assessments

Assess the same targets as the summative.

Examples:

- Grade 3 ELA
- Grade 3 Math



Current Interim Assessment Blocks

Assess 1–8 targets in math and ELA/literacy.

Examples:

- Grade 3 ELA, Reading Literary Texts
- Grade 3 Math, Operations and Algebraic Thinking



Focused Interim Assessment Blocks

Assess 1–3 targets in math and ELA/literacy.

Examples:

- Grade 3 ELA, Reading Literary Texts: Text Analysis
- Grade 3 Math: Multiply and Divide Within 100



New Connections Playlists

Each focused IAB will have a corresponding playlist to **connect teachers with resources** in the [Digital Library](#) so that they may identify instructional next steps to support students' learning.

How Many Will Be Available?

In addition to the existing 19 ELA and 20 mathematics IABs that meet our new definition of a focused IAB, Smarter Balanced plans to develop:

- **84 focused IABs in ELA/literacy** (12 per grade) and
- **52 focused IABs in mathematics** (4–10 per grade).

Release Timeline

Smarter Balanced will release focused IABs starting in the 2019–20 school year. This is a multi-year project, and we plan to finish releasing all focused IABs by the 2021–22 school year.*

*Note: Releasing focused IABs is dependent on available items for a given grade and content area. We will work to accelerate item development for specific focused IABs where needed.



The data that we receive from the Interim Assessment Blocks is **immediate**. I'm able to see it right away. I can then reevaluate my lesson plans for the next day."

—Elementary Teacher, Oregon