

Formative Assessment Tools to Support Teaching and Learning



This document describes online tools available from the California Department of Education (CDE) to help educators gauge their students' learning and determine next steps for instruction. All of the tools listed support English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. Educators can use this document to help determine which tools best fit the instructional needs of their students.

Tool	How This Tool Supports the Formative Assessment Process
Tools for Teachers Website*	Supports implementation of the formative assessment process with educator-created lessons embedded with formative assessment and accessibility strategies, playlists of lessons connected to interim assessment blocks, and professional learning resources. Access the Smarter Balanced Tools for Teachers website .
Interim Assessment Item Portal*	Allows educators to identify ELA and mathematics interim assessment items that align with instruction and to access the answer keys. Access the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Item Portal .
Interim Assessment Viewing System*	Provides educators with a view of the interim assessments for use in a formative manner with students during instruction. Access the Interim Assessment Viewing System .
Smarter Content Explorer	Supports understanding of specific grade-level knowledge and skills. It connects to the Smarter Balanced assessment item specifications and to various resources including academic standards, assessment blueprints, content-relevant vocabulary, and scoring rubrics. Access the Smarter Balanced Smarter Content Explorer .
Accessibility Strategies for Teaching and Learning	Connects the Smarter Balanced accessibility resources to daily classroom instruction. Access the Smarter Balanced Accessibility Strategies for Teaching and Learning flyer .
Sample Items Website	Displays sample ELA and mathematics questions that can be incorporated into classroom formative assessment activities. Access the Smarter Balanced Sample Items website .
Annotated Student Response Tool	Supports understanding of how Smarter Balanced ELA student writing is scored by providing annotations and rationales that can be used to inform instruction. Access the Smarter Balanced Annotated Response Tool .
California Educator Reporting System (CERS)*	Reports California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) summative and interim assessments results. For the interim assessments, CERS provides item level information, including student responses to each item. Access CERS and the CERS Sandbox training tool through the CAASPP & ELPAC CERS Resources web page .

* Requires Test Operations Management System (TOMS) logon credentials to access

For more information, visit the [CAASPP & ELPAC Website](#).

