



The Smarter Balanced Assessment System For English Language Learners and Their Families

Introduction: What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment System?

The Smarter Balanced Assessment system measures what students have learned in English Language Arts and Math. The assessment system is aligned to Washington State Learning Standards. There are two assessment types, **summative** and **interim**, and most students will take the assessment on a computer.

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment – General Information	
Who	The summative assessment will test all students in grades 3–8 and 11.
What	The summative and interim tests will assess English Language Arts and Mathematics.
When	Smarter Balanced will begin during the 2014-15 school year. Students in grades 3-8 will take the test within the last twelve weeks of the school year; for grade 11, the test will be given in the last seven weeks of the school year.
Where	The assessments will take place at the student’s school.
Why	Smarter Balanced measures student progress toward college and career readiness. It also is a tool for classroom monitoring of teaching and learning.
How	The assessments include item types such as: multiple choice, short answer, and essay (multiple paragraphs).

The required summative assessment tests the full range of Washington State Learning Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for students in grades 3–8 and 11.

The interim assessment (optional for schools) identifies specific needs of the student and can be administered anytime or as many times as desired/required throughout the year. Interim assessments can also be used in grades 9 and 10.

Graduation and Matriculation Requirements

Class of 2015		
ELA	Math	Science
Reading AND Writing HSPE*	Choose 1: Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 End of Course (EOC)* Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC* Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC exit exam* Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC exit exam*	Biology EOC*

* High school graduation requirements vary depending upon the year that the student graduates. The State Testing notes contain complete information. Requirements can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/>

Please note that passing the required assessments is only one requirement for graduation. Other requirements can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/default.aspx>

The Assessment Calendar can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/timelines-calendars.aspx>

Complete information on the Smarter Balanced Assessment may be obtained at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>

Matriculation: Student results from the Smarter Balanced assessments indicate progress readiness for career or college pursuits and are not recommended for use in promotion/matriculation decisions.



Supports and Testing Times for English Language Learners

The Smarter Balanced assessment system extends “Accommodations” to Special Education students, and it extends “Designated Supports” to ELLs as well as other students. Please find below a list of Designated Supports. These supports are available to all students for whom an informed adult or team has determined a need for support, regardless of the student’s classification (or lack thereof) as an ELL.

	Universal Tools	Designated Supports	Accommodations
Embedded	Breaks Calculator ¹ Digital Notepad English Dictionary ² English Glossary Expandable Passages Global Notes Highlighter Keyboard Navigation Mark for Review Math Tools ³ Spell Check ⁴ Strikethrough Writing Tools ⁵ Zoom	Color Contrast Masking Text-to-Speech ⁶ Translated Test Directions ⁷ Translations (Glossary) ⁸ Translations (Stacked) ⁹ Turn off Any Universal Tools	American Sign Language ¹⁰ Braille Closed Captioning ¹¹ Streamline Text-to-Speech ¹²
Non-embedded	Breaks English Dictionary ¹³ Scratch Paper Thesaurus ¹⁴	Bilingual Dictionary ¹⁵ Color Contrast Color Overlay Magnification Read Aloud Noise Buffers Scribe ¹⁶ Separate Setting Translated Test Directions Translations (Glossary) ¹⁷	Abacus Alternate Response Options ¹⁸ Calculator ¹⁹ Multiplication Table ²⁰ Print on Demand Read Aloud Scribe Speech-to-Text

*Items shown are available for ELA and math unless otherwise noted.

Smarter Balanced assessments are not timed, and testing will occur in multiple sessions. Students will typically spend one to two hours per day on the summative assessments over several days. Smarter Balanced assesses writing at every grade level. The interim assessments vary in length of time required.

Estimated Testing Time: Summative Exam		
Test	Grades	Est. Time Allotted
English Language Arts	3–5	4 hours
	6–8	4 hours
	11	4.5 hours

Estimated Testing Time: Summative Exam		
Test	Grades	Est. Time Allotted
Math	3–5	3 hours
	6–8	3.5 hours
	11	4 hours
COMBINED (English Language Arts and Math)	3–5	7 hours
	6–8	7.5 hours
	11	8.5 hours