High School Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)
Overview 2019–20

In the 2019–20 school year, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium created grade 9, 10, and 11 versions of Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) as described in the 2019–20 Interim Assessments Overview. These ICAs each have grade-appropriate cut scores.

This High School Interim Comprehensive Assessment Overview document provides considerations and potential uses for these grade 9, 10, and 11 ICAs.

Considerations

- The ICAs support instruction aligned to the standards and can be one of multiple measures of student learning of the standards throughout high school.

- Students take the Smarter Balanced summative test at the end of grade 10 as one measure of their learning of the standards. The grades 9 and 10 ICAs can be used as check-ups along the way. The grade 11 ICA can be used to measure student learning of standards after the grade 10 summative test opportunity.

- The Grades 9, 10, and 11 ICAs each have different performance cut scores.
  - Grades 9 and 10: The level 3 performance cut score can be used to indicate if a student is on track to be career and college ready by the end of high school.
  - Grade 11: The level 3 performance cut score can be used to indicate a student is career and college ready when given at the end of grade 11.

- The testing time for administering an ICA is similar to the time it takes to administer the grade 10 summative test.

- The ICAs require some teacher handscoring within the AIRWays Reporting system to generate scores. Teachers can prepare for scoring by previewing the ICAs in the Assessment Viewing Application and downloading scoring materials in TIDE.

- The ICAs are not meant to replace diagnostic tools that can identify specific areas of learning support for students.

- The ICAs are not intended to be practice tests, nor are they designed for student/school/district accountability or teacher evaluation purposes.

- ICAs score reports are similar to the summative score report and include a scale score and claim scores. Additionally, student performance on each item in an ICA can be viewed in AIRWays Reporting.

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Potential ICA Uses

The ideas for use provided below are not an exhaustive list of how school and districts can use the ICAs. Schools and districts should consider how ICAs fit into district and school instruction and assessment, including the use of Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). More ideas on using ICAs and IABs in both standardized ways—a setting similar to the summative test—and non-standardized ways—as part of classroom instruction and assessment—are in the 2019–20 Interim Assessments Overview.

In general, students would not engage with all of these potential uses of the ICAs.

Grade 9 ICA
- **Standardized**: Administer at the end of the grade 9 school year as a checkpoint and one of multiple measures of student learning between students’ grade 8 summative results and their future grade 10 summative results.
- **Non-standardized**: Select items to use with formative assessment practices throughout grade 9 instruction as another measure of student learning of the standards taught during that year.

Grade 10 ICA
- **Standardized**: Administer at semester to check mid-year progress to inform instruction leading to grade 10 summative testing.
- **Non-standardized**: Select items to use with formative assessment practices throughout grade 10 instruction as another measure of student learning of the standards taught during that year.
- **Standardized**: Administer at the beginning of the year to grade 11 students for whom there is not yet a high school summative test score as one of multiple measures to inform pathways and potential interventions in the grade 11 and 12 years.

Grade 11 ICA
- **Standardized**: Administer at semester to check mid-year progress toward career and college readiness at the end of grade 11.
- **Standardized**: Administer at the end of the grade 11 year to those students who did not take the grade 10 summative test as one of multiple measures of students’ career and college readiness.
- **Non-standardized**: For the mathematics ICA, select those items that are unique to the grade 11 ICA to use with formative assessment practices throughout grade 11 instruction as another measure of student learning of the standards.

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