## Smarter Balanced Assessments:

 Mathematics Overview Gail Pagano Connecticut State Department of Education

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# Contact Information 

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## Presentation Overview

- Common Core State Standards
- Standards for Mathematical Practice
- Standards for Mathematical Content
- The Three Shifts in Mathematics
- The Claims for the Mathematics Summative Assessment
- Item Response Types
- Computer Adaptive Testing
- Performance Tasks


## The CCSS Mathematics Standards Not a New Way of Doing Old Business

## The Structure is the Standards

Phil Daro, Bill McCallum, Jason Zimba


- Balanced

Slide 4

## The Standard for Mathematical Practice



Amarter

## The Standards for Mathematical Content

## Operatlons and Algebralc ThInkIng

## Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.

1. Interpret products of whole numbers, e.g., interpret $5 \times 7$ as the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each. For example, describe a context in which a total number of objects can be expressed as $5 \times 7$.
2. Interpret whole-number quotients of whole numbers, e.g., interpret $56 \div 8$ as the number of objects in each share when 56 objects are partitioned equally into 8 shares, or as a number of shares when 56 objects are partitioned into equal shares of 8 objects each. For example, describe a context in which a number of shares or a number of groups can be expressed as $56 \div 8$.
3. Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.!
4. Determine the unknown whole number in a multiplication or division equation relating three whole numbers. For example, determine the unknown number that makes the equation true in each of the equations 8 $x ?=48,5=\square \div 3,6 \times 6=$ ?

## The Mathematics Assessment The Three Shifts in Mathematics

## The CCSS Require Three Shifts in Mathematics

- Focus strongly where the standards focus
- Coherence: Think across grades and link to major topics within grades
- Rigor: In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity

COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS FOR
Mathematics

## Shift \#1: Focus Strongly where the Standards Focus The shape of math in A+ countries




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Mathematics topics intended at each grade by at least twothirds of 21 U.S. states

## Shift \#1: Focus

Common Core State Standards - Mathematics

| Kindergarten | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | HS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Counting and Cardinality |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number and Operations in Base Ten |  |  |  |  |  | Ratios and Proportional Relationships |  |  | Number and Quantity |
|  |  |  | $\frac{\text { Number and Operations :- }}{\text { Fractions }}$ |  |  | The Number System |  |  |  |
| Operations and Algebraic Thinking |  |  |  |  |  | Expressions and Equations |  |  | Algebra |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Functions | Functions |
| Geometry |  |  |  |  |  | Geometry |  |  | Geometry |
| Measurement and Data |  |  |  |  |  | Statistics and Probability |  |  | Statistics and Probability |

## Shift \#1: Focus <br> Key Areas of Focus in Mathematics

| Grade | Focus Areas in Support of Rich Instruction and <br> Expectations of Fluency and Conceptual <br> Understanding |
| :---: | :--- |
| K-2 | Addition and subtraction - concepts, skills, and <br> problem solving and place value |
| $3-5$ | Multiplication and division of whole numbers and <br> fractions - concepts, skills, and problem solving |
| 6 | Ratios and proportional reasoning; early expressions <br> and equations |
| 7 | Ratios and proportional reasoning; arithmetic of <br> rational numbers |
| 8 | Linear algebra and linear functions |

## Shift \#1: Focus

## Content Emphases by Cluster

## The Smarter Balanced Content Specifications help support focus by identifying the content emphasis by cluster. The notation $[\mathrm{m}]$ indicates content that is major and $[\mathrm{a} / \mathrm{s}$ ] indicates content that is additional or supporting.

```
Grade 4 Cluster-Level Emphases
m}=\mathrm{ major clusters; a/s = additional and supporting clusters
Operations and Algebraic Thinking
[m] Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
[a/s] Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.
[a/s] Generate and analyze patterns.
Number and Operations in Base Ten
[m] Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
[m] Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
Number and Operations-Fractions
[m] Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
[m] Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of
operations on whole numbers.

\section*{Shift \#2: Coherence \\ Think Across Grades, and Link to Major Topics Within Grades}
- Carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding on foundations built in previous years.
- Begin to count on solid conceptual understanding of core content and build on it. Each standard is not a new event, but an extension of previous learning.

\section*{Shift \#2: Coherence Alignment in Context}

\section*{Neighboring Grades and Progressions}

\section*{One of several staircases to algebra designed into in the OA domain.}

\section*{Expressions and Equatlons 6.EE}
3. Apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions For example, apply the distributive property to the expression \(3(2+x)\) to produce the equivalent expression \(6+3 x\); apply the distributive property to the expression \(24 x+18 y\) to produce the equivalent expression \(6(4 x+3 y)\); apply properties of operations to \(y+y+y\) to produce the equivalent expression 3y.

\section*{Operations and Algebraic Thinking 5.OA}
2. Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them. For examp/e express the calculation "add 8 and 7 , then multiply by 2 " as \(2 \times(8+7)\). Recognize that \(3 \times(18932+921)\) is three times as large as \(18932+921\) without having to calculate the indicated sum or product.

\section*{Operations and Algebraic Thinking 3.OA}
5. Apply properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide. \({ }^{2}\) Examples: If \(6 \times 4=24\) is known, then \(4 \times 6=24\) is also known. (Commutative property of multiplication.) \(3 \times 5 \times 2\) can be found by 3 \(\times 5=15\), then \(15 \times 2=30\), or by \(5 \times 2=10\), then \(3 \times 10=30\). (Associative property of multiplication.) Knowing that \(8 \times 5=40\) and \(8 \times 2=16\), one can find \(8 \times 7\) as \(8 \times(5+2)=(8 \times 5)+(8 \times 2)=40+16=56\). (Distributive property.)

\section*{Operations and Algebraic Thinking 1.0A}
3. Apply properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract. \({ }^{3}\) Examples f \(8+3=11\) is known, then \(3+8=11\) is also known. (Commutative property of dition.) To add \(2+6+4\), the second two numbers can be added to make

\section*{Assessments Must Attend to the Coherence in the Standards}
1.OA. 7 Understand the meaning of the equal sign, and determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true or false. For example, which of the following equations are true and which are false? \(6=\) \(6,7=8-1,5+2=2+5,4+1=5+2\).

Some standards from early grades are critical through Grade 12

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\section*{Shift \#3: Rigor}

In Major Topics, Pursue Conceptual Understanding, Procedural Skill and Fluency, and Application
- The CCSSM require a balance of:
- Solid conceptual understanding
- Procedural skill and fluency
- Application of skills in problem solving situations
- Pursuit of all three requires equal intensity in time, activities, and resources.

\section*{Shift \#3: Rigor}

\section*{Solid Conceptual Understanding}
- Teach more than "how to get the answer" and instead support students' ability to access concepts from a number of perspectives
- Students are able to see math as more than a set of mnemonics or discrete procedures
- Conceptual understanding supports the other aspects of rigor (fluency and application)

\section*{Is This Fostering Understanding of Multiplication?}
\[
\begin{aligned}
& 9 \times 1=09 \\
& 9 \times 2=18 \\
& 9 \times 3=27 \\
& 9 \times 4=36 \\
& 9 \times 5=45 \\
& 9 \times 6=54 \\
& 9 \times 7=63 \\
& 9 \times 8=72 \\
& 9 \times 9=81 \\
& 9 \times 10=90
\end{aligned}
\]

\section*{What the teachers never taught us}

\section*{And This?}

\section*{\(2 \times 9=18\)}

- Each finger to the left of the curled finger represents 10.
- Say 10,
- Each finger to the right of the curled finger represents one.
- Count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 . (Or \(11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18)\)
\(-2 \times 9=18\)

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\section*{MP 8: Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning}

Progressions for the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics - K, Counting and Cardinality; K - 5 Operations and Algebraic Thinking (page 26)

\section*{Patterns in multiples of 9}
```

1\times9=9
2\times9=2\times(10-1)=(2\times10)-(2\times1)-20-2=18
3\times9=3\times(10-1)=(3\times10)-(3\times1)-30-3=27, etc

```

Source:
http://commoncoretools.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/ccss_progression_cc_oa_ k5_2011_05_302.pdf

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Slide 20

\section*{Shift \#3: Rigor}

\section*{Required Fluencies for Grades K-6}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|l|}
\hline \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{ Grade } & Standard & Required Fluency \\
\hline K & K.OA.5 & Add/subtract within 5 \\
\hline 1 & 1.OA.6 & Add/subtract within 10 \\
\hline 2 & \begin{tabular}{l} 
2.OA.2 \\
2.NBT.5
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Add/subtract within 20 (know single-digit sums \\
from memory) \\
Add/subtract within 100
\end{tabular} \\
\hline 3 & \begin{tabular}{l} 
3.OA.7 \\
3.NBT.2
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Multiply/divide within 100 (know single-digit \\
products from memory) \\
Add/subtract within 1000
\end{tabular} \\
\hline 4 & 4.NBT.4 & Add/subtract within 1,000,000 \\
\hline 5 & 5.NBT.5 & Multi-digit multiplication \\
\hline 6 & 6.NS.2,3 & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Multi-digit division \\
Multi-digit decimal operations
\end{tabular} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{How Can Assessments Deliver on the Promise of Focus, Coherence and Rigor?}
- FOCUS: Assessments focus where the standards focus.

Major content represents the majority of points and problems on assessments.
- COHERENCE: Assessments honor the coherence in the standards.

Balance of tasks assessing individual standards and related standards within the context of the grade and, as relevant, the progressions.
- RIGOR: Assessments reflect the rigor of the standards.

Balance of tasks assessing conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application of mathematics to solve problems.

\section*{A Shift Away from "Cookie Cutter" Items}

The numbers 0 and 1 are shown on the number line. Put a point on the line to represent the number \(3 / 5\).


To
The numbers 0 and \(3 / 5\) are shown on the number line. Put a point on the line to represent the number 1.

\(0 \quad 3 / 5\)

\section*{From the Progressions}
3.NF. 1 Understand a fraction \(1 / b\) as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into \(b\) equal parts; understand a fraction \(a / b\) as the quantity formed by \(a\) parts of size \(1 / b\).

The importance of specifying the whole


Without specifying the whole it is not reasonable to ask what fraction is represented by the shaded area. If the left square is the whole, the shaded area represents the fraction \(\frac{3}{2}\); if the entire rectangle is the whole, the shaded area represents \(\frac{3}{4}\).

Source:
commoncoretools.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/ccss_progressi on_nf_35_2011_08_12.pdf

\section*{How do we "Shift" Item Writers" Understanding of the Mathematics?}

What fraction is represented by the shaded area?

Disclaimer: This is not a Smarter Balanced item.

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\section*{How do we "Shift" Item Writers' Understanding of the Mathematics?}

What fraction is represented by the shaded area?


Four students give responses. Explain what must be true for each student to be correct.
Student A: 3/4
Student B: 3/2
Student C: 3/1
Student D: 30/1

\section*{The Mathematics Assessment}

The Claims for the Mathematics Summative Assessment


\section*{Claims for the Mathematics Summative Assessment}

\section*{Overall Claim for Grades 3-8}
"Students can demonstrate progress toward college and career readiness in mathematics."

\section*{Overall Claim for Grade 11}
"Students can demonstrate college and career readiness in mathematics."

\section*{Claim \#1 - Concepts \& Procedures}
"Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency."

\section*{Claim \#2 - Problem Solving}
"Students can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem solving strategies."

\section*{Claim \#3 - Communicating Reasoning}
"Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others."

\section*{Claim \#4 - Modeling and Data Analysis}
"Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems."

\title{
The Mathematics Assessment Response Types
}

\section*{Response Types}


Smarter Balanced Response Types
MC with one correct response MC with multiple correct responses Two Part multiple-choice

Matching Tables
Yes/No or True/False Tables
Fill-in Tables
Select or order text or graphics
Complex drag and drop
Graphing
Equation or numeric response Short Text
Long Essay

\section*{Drag \& Drop / Line Tool}

\section*{554}

David wants to create the L-shaped desk shown. He decides to buy two rectangular desks and put them together.
- Drag numbers into the boxes to show the missing dimensions.
- Use the Connect Line tool to draw a line dividing the diagram into two desks. Make each desk 5 feet by 2 feet.
- What is the total area of the L-shaped desk? Drag numbers into the box to show your answer.


\section*{Multiple Correct Response}

Use this number line to answer the question that follows.


Choose all the number lines that show a fraction equal to the fraction shown by point \(P\).
\(\square\)

\(\square\)


\(\square\)

\(\square\)


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\section*{Matching Table}

\section*{556}

For questions 1a-1d, choose Yes or No to show if the number 7 will make each equation true.


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\section*{Fill-in Table}

\section*{Grade 8}

In the table shown, enter the two missing values for \(y\) to create a relation that is not a linear function.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline\(x\) & \(y\) \\
\hline 1 & 5 \\
\hline 2 & \\
\hline 3 & 10 \\
\hline 4 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{Equation/Numeric}

\section*{Grade 3}

Lisa had 3 pizzas. Each pizza was cut into 8 pieces. Lisa ate 2 pieces. How many pieces were left? Write an equation to show how many pieces were left.
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|l|l|}
\hline & & & \\
\hline & \(\rightarrow\) & \(\rightarrow\) \\
\hline 1 & 2 & 3 & + & - \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{Equation/Numeric}

Grade 8
Write an equation for the line in slope-intercept form.


\section*{Hot Spot}

\section*{18}


Walter puts 1050 cubic inches of dirt into the tank shown.

Click the number line to show the height of the dirt in the tank.


\section*{Hot Spot}

\section*{557}

Nicky has 4 packs of pencils. Each pack contains 15 pencils. In each pack, 5 pencils are blue and the rest green.

Create a bar graph to show how many of each color pencil Nicky has.

Click the graph to show where the top of the bar should go.


\section*{Multiple Parts with Drag and Drop}

\section*{762}
-6
-5
-4
-3
-2
-1
0
2
A. Drag numbers into the boxes
to create an example that \(\quad 1\) shows Rachel's claim is false.\(-1\) \begin{tabular}{l|l} 
to create an example that & -1 \\
supports Rachel's claim. & -1
\end{tabular}
B. Drag numbers into the boxes

\section*{B. Shows Rachel's Claim is False}
\[
\square+\square=\square
\]
\[
\square+\square=\square
\]
A. Supports Rachel's Claim

Delete

\section*{Short Text}

Six friends are going to buy pizza. Their choices are to buy 2 medium 10-inch diameter pizzas for \(\$ 7.00\) each, or 1 large 14 -inch diameter pizza for \(\$ 15.00\). Both prices include tax and tip.

The friends agree that their best choice is the one that gives them the most pizza for their money.

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Which is the best choice? Explain your answer.

How to We Capture and Score Responses Like This?

Question 2: Glacier Speeds
Score 1
the tonging glacier because it is moveryat the greatest speed beeause it moves 6 feet in a a al. Your would tare the 3 inches cod multiply then by 24 because for each have, the glacier mould 3 inches and J wonted to see how much id moue in a dey ( 24 hoars). Next i teak 72 ( \(3 \times 24\) ) and durdiel lay 12 because there one 12 inches in a foot. 1 tho got 6 whin ry io many. feet tire glacier moved. 2 mol feet then the sliding glacis) and almost 4 feet mousing in the arguing spacier.
\[
\begin{aligned}
& 4 \mathrm{ft} .1 \text { day } \\
& 3 \times 24=72 \div 12=6 \mathrm{ft} . \text { dey } \\
& 6 \times 10^{-5}=.00006 \times 24=\frac{.0144}{12} .00121 \text { day }
\end{aligned}
\]

\section*{Mathematics Reasoning Project}
- Panel of combined mathematics content and technology experts met in early October to define the evidence gap between what we want to be able to measure and what we are currently able to measure.
- Two phase development plan
- Phase 1 development is focused on items that we can already capture, but want to be able to score using technology.
- Phase 2 will focus on newer technologies as defined and prioritized during the panel meeting.

\section*{The Mathematics Assessment Computer Adaptive Testing}

\section*{Smarter Balanced: Complexity vs. Difficulty}

In the Smarter Balanced adaptive test, ALL students will see items across the full range of complexity; appropriate items will be selected for examinees based on their calibrated difficulty levels.

Appendix C - Cognitive Rigor Matrix/Depth of Knowledge (DOK) - Mathematics Content Specifications.

\section*{Increasing Complexity}
- Understand:

What is the value of \(2(14)-3\) ?
Apply:
> Susan has \$14. Jack has \$3 less than twice the amount of money Susan has. How much money does Jack have?
\(>\) Jack has \$3 less than twice the amount of money Susan has. Write an expression for the amount of money, \((s)\), Susan has.

\section*{Increasing Difficulty}
- What is the value of this expression?
\[
2(14)-3
\]
- What is the value of this expression?
\[
2(9+8)-(17-4)
\]
- What is the value of this expression?
\[
7(8-5)-2^{3}+(6)(3)
\]

\section*{Computer Adaptive Testing}
\begin{tabular}{l}
\begin{tabular}{l} 
Adapting Items - Adjusting the Difficulty of \\
Grade 3 Multiplication Items
\end{tabular} \\
\hline \(8 \times 5=\square\) Fluently multiply and divide within 100. \\
\hline \(8 \times \square=40\) Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division. \\
\hline \(9 \times 4=\square \times 9\) Understand properties of multiplication... \\
\hline \(4 \times \square=40-8\) \\
\hline \(9 \times 4=2 \times \square\) \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
\(8 \times \square=4 \times \square\) \\
Give two different pairs of numbers that could fill the boxes to make a true \\
equation.
\end{tabular} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{The Mathematics Assessment Performance Tasks}

\section*{Performance Tasks}
- Integrate knowledge and skills across multiple Claims and Targets.
- Measure capacities such as depth of understanding, research skills, and/or complex analysis with relevant evidence.
- Require student-initiated planning, management of information/data and ideas, and/or interaction with other materials.
- Reflect a real-world task and/or scenario-based problem.
- Allow for multiple approaches.

\section*{Mathematics Claims for Performance Tasks}
\begin{tabular}{|c|l|}
\hline Claim \#1 - Concepts \& & \begin{tabular}{l} 
"Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and \\
interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and \\
fluency."
\end{tabular} \\
Claim \#2 - Problem Solving & \begin{tabular}{l} 
"Students can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure \\
and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and \\
problem solving strategies."
\end{tabular} \\
\hline Claim \#3 - Communicating & \begin{tabular}{l} 
"Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to \\
support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others."
\end{tabular} \\
\hline Reasoning & \begin{tabular}{l} 
"Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can \\
construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve \\
problems."
\end{tabular} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{Overall Claim for Grades 3-8}
"Students can demonstrate progress toward college and career readiness in mathematics."

Overall Claim for Grade 11
"Students can demonstrate college and career readiness in mathematics."

\section*{Classroom Activity}

\section*{Heartbeats Performance Task Classroom Interaction}

Resources needed:
- Each student should have access to a piece of paper and writing tool
- Projector or some manner to display images
- A timing device for measuring a 20 second interval

\section*{Setting the Context}

Facilitator says: "The performance task you will complete allows you to explore the body weights and pulse rates of different animals."
Facilitator says: "Let's start by talking about the body weights of different animals. Imagine a chicken, a dog, a horse, and a rat. On your paper, write the animals in order from lightest to heaviest according to their body weights.
[Display the animals' names for students in the order listed: chicken, dog, horse, rat.]
Facilitator asks: "Which two animals do you think are closest in weight?" [Wait for responses. Responses may include the rat and the chicken, or some students may think the dog and the horse depending on which breeds they are considering or because they have never seen the live animals. Students may explain why they made the choice they did.]

\section*{HEARTBEATS}

In this task, you will use data to create a model that shows the relationship between animal body weight and pulse rate measures. Then you will examine additional data to evaluate your model.

A study states that the relationship between an animal's pulse rate and body weight is approximately linear. The study data are below.

Table 1. Average Body Weight and Average Pulse Rate of Seven Animals
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline Animal & \begin{tabular}{c} 
Average Body Weight \\
(in kilograms)
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
Average Pulse Rate (in \\
beats per minute)
\end{tabular} \\
\hline Cat & 3 & 130 \\
\hline Goat & 28 & 75 \\
\hline Sheep & 56 & 75 \\
\hline Pig & 192 & 95 \\
\hline Ox & 362 & 48 \\
\hline Cow & 465 & 66 \\
\hline Horse & 521 & 34 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The data from Table 1 are plotted below. Use the Connect Line tool to create a linear model of these data.


The body weight and pulse rate of a guinea pig and rabbit are given in the table below.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline Animal & \begin{tabular}{c} 
Average Body \\
Weight (in kg)
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
Average Pulse Rate ( \\
per minute)
\end{tabular} \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{c} 
Guinea \\
Pig
\end{tabular} & 1 & 250 \\
\hline Rabbit & 2.5 & 265 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

If the study had included these data, would this change the model relating average body weight and average pulse rate? How do you know?


\section*{Calculators}
- Grades 3 - 5: No calculator
- Grade 6: Basic Calculator
- Grades 7 and 8: Scientific Calculator
- Grade 11: Scientific/Graphing, Regression Calculator
(Available for student use on the Smarter Balanced Practice Test)

\section*{Smarter Balanced \\ Resources}

\title{
Find Out More www.SmarterBalanced.org
}



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\section*{Find Out More} www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced


\section*{CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION}

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Teachers \&
Administrators
Parents \& Community
Students
Adult Education
School \& District

\section*{School}

Performance
REPORTS

\section*{ALLIANCE DISTRICTS}

\section*{COMMISSIONER'S} NETWORK

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS STATE STANDARDS
N CONNECTICUT

\section*{SEED}

STUDENT
SUCCESS PLAN
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES

\section*{A Smarter Balanced \\ Assessment Consortium}

By the 2014-2015 school year, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium will develop a system of assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics for Grades 3-8 and 11 aligned to Common Core State Standards. The assessment system will include
- A computer adaptive summative assessment administered during the last 12 weeks of the school year This assessment can be used to describe student achievement and growth of student learning as part of program evaluation and school, district, and state accountability systems.
- Optional computer adaptive interim assessments administered at locally determined intervals. These assessments provide information about student progress throughout the year.
- Formative tools and resources that help teachers differentiate instruction and meet the unique needs of each student.
- An online tailored reporting system that provides access information about student progress toward college and career readiness.

To learn more, download a one-page overview of the Consortium. Additional resources and frequently asked questions are available on the Smarter Balanced Web site, which showcases the progress toward the development of the balanced assessment system.

Connecticut, as a governing state in Smarter Balanced, is taking an active role in the consortium through representation on several workgroups.

View recent communication from the Connecticut State Department of Education regarding preparation for the Smarter Balanced implementation in 2014-2015.
\[
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\section*{Reflect on Guiding Questions}
- What do educators need to do to support student learning?
- What do educators need to do to ensure that students are prepared for the Smarter Balanced assessments?```

