



# Smarter Balanced and Parents: Preparing Students for Success after High School

In schools across the country, teachers are helping students meet the challenge of the Common Core State Standards—consistent guidelines for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level so they can graduate high school prepared for college and the workplace. These new academic benchmarks challenge students to develop a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically, and apply what they are learning to the real world.

Teachers and college faculty from two dozen states are working together to develop high-quality assessments that provide more accurate and meaningful information about what students are learning. The Smarter Balanced assessments will replace existing tests in English and mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school in the 2014-2015 school year. Administered online, these new assessments will adapt to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents better information to help students succeed.

## Key Features

- ▶ End-of-year tests measure student achievement and growth in English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and high school. Mid-year tests allow teachers to check student progress and provide support for struggling students before the end of the year.
- ▶ Features for students with disabilities and English language learners so that all students can demonstrate what they know.
- ▶ Administered online with extended research, writing, and problem solving tasks that measure the skills students need for success.
- ▶ Expectations of student performance linked to international benchmarks and college expectations.
- ▶ Tools for teachers to use all year—including classroom-based assessments, professional development materials, and instructional resources—to help them meet students' individual needs.

## Take the Test!

Parents and students can experience what the Smarter Balanced assessment will be like by taking a practice test at [SmarterBalanced.org](http://SmarterBalanced.org). Practice tests are available in English and math for grades 3 through 8 and high school.

## Schedule

- ▶ Spring 2014: Field testing
- ▶ 2014-15 School Year: Implementation of the assessment system

## Learn More

Visit [SmarterBalanced.org](http://SmarterBalanced.org) to learn more about the assessment system and sign up for our eNewsletter.