



Assessment News

February 6, 2015

Top News This Week

Many schools have asked for clarification regarding the appropriate use of the Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) and Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). Please see the information provided below.

What the Interim Assessments are.....

- Intended to support teaching and learning by gauging student progress towards attaining the knowledge and skills included in the Hawaii Common Core Standards for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics that will be measured by the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.
- Test questions are not secure but also not publically available.
- Teachers will be given access to the items at a password protected site that is currently being developed with American Institutes for Research (AIR), the Department's testing contractor for the new Smarter Balanced Assessment System. The Assessment Section will inform all school test coordinators when teachers can access this password protected site.

What the Interim Assessments are NOT.....

- Not public and should not be shared or reproduced
- Not intended for use in instruction

Other Resources that Can Be Shared and Used during Instruction

- Training Tests
They are designed to provide opportunities for users to familiarize themselves with the software, navigational tools and the item types included in the Smarter Balanced Assessments. They are organized by grade bands and contain 6-10 items. There is no answer key or a set of scoring guidelines for the training tests. There are no performance tasks included in the training tests. All universal tools and some designated supports are available when students take the training tests as guests. Additional designated supports and accommodations are available if the Test Administrator uses the secure browser to test the students in a session created in the Training Site that requires students to enter their legal first name, 10-digit ID number, and test session ID.
- Practice Tests
They include approximately 30 items that are similar to the Interim and Summative Assessments as well as performance tasks for each content area and grade. There are also classroom activities to be completed before each content area performance task.

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Scoring guidelines for ELA and Mathematics items and rubrics for the ELA performance task full writes are available. The Practice Tests are not secure so teachers can have their students participate in discussions about the content and the types of items provided for each content area during instruction.

- [Teaching Strategies and Formative Assessments in the Digital Library](#)
- [Sample Items and Performance Tasks Released by Smarter Balanced](#)

These sample items and performance tasks for each content area, claim (reporting category), and grade level are currently available at www.smarterbalanced.org. Click on the "Smarter Balanced Assessments" tab at the top of the homepage. Then click on "Item Writing and Review" in the drop down menu. A link to these sample items and performance tasks included in the Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy and Mathematics item specifications is provided below. Teachers may download and use any of the sample items and performance tasks with students during instruction.

[Smarter Balanced item/task specifications and review guidelines](#)

English Language Arts/Literacy Item Specification

- [ELA CAT Item Specs Grades 3-5](#) (ZIP) (Update 2/4/14)
- [ELA CAT Item Specs Grades 6-8](#) (ZIP) (Update 2/4/14)
- [ELA CAT Item Specs Grades 9-11](#) (ZIP) (Updated 2/4/14)
- [ELA PT Item Specs Opinion Grades 3-5](#) (ZIP) (5/20/14)
- [ELA PT Item Specs Narrative Grades 3-5](#) (ZIP) (5/20/14)
- [ELA PT Item Specs Informative Grades 3-5](#) (ZIP) (5/20/14)
- [ELA PT Item Specs Narrative Grades 6-8](#) (ZIP) (10/27/14)
- [ELA PT Item Specs Explanatory Grades 6-8,11](#) (ZIP) (5/20/14)
- [ELA PT Item Specs Argumentative Grades 6-8,11](#) (ZIP) (5/20/14)
- [ELA Stimulus Specifications](#) (PDF)
- [Issues Related to Stimulus and Item Development](#) (PDF)

Mathematics

- [Mathematics CAT Item Specs Grades 3-5](#) (PDF)
- [Mathematics Grades 3-5](#) (ZIP) (Update 2/4/14)
- [Mathematics CAT Item Specs Grades 6-8](#) (PDF)
- [Mathematics Grades 6-8](#) (ZIP) (Update 2/4/14)
- [Mathematics CAT Item Specs High School](#) (PDF)
- [Mathematics High School](#) (ZIP) (Update 2/4/14)
- [Mathematics PT Item Specs All Grades](#) (PDF) (5/27/14)
- Smarter Balanced Mathematics General Rubrics ([PDF](#)) ([DocX](#))

Schools have requested additional information about the most effective procedures which can be used with students during test sessions to ensure that they do not use electronic devices to capture images of secure test items for any statewide student assessment. Please see the information provided below.

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The key to preventing the breach of any secure test item by a student is for every school to strictly enforce the following actions regardless of its cell phone policy:

- Have students turn off their cell phones before entering a testing room and have the test administrator check all cell phones after students are seated to ensure that they are turned off.
- Have students place their cell phones on the floor under their chairs, in a backpack/bag under their chairs, or in a designated area in the testing room.
- Have the test administrator and a proctor, who can assist with monitoring students' behavior if one is available, walk around the testing room during each test session to ensure that students do not retrieve their cell phones from under their chairs, turn them on, and use them to take a picture of a test item and post it on a social networking site.

The actions/consequences for schools where students or staff members use an electronic device to capture images of secure test items during test sessions for any statewide student assessment are listed in the February 28, 2014 memo titled, *Consequences for Students and School Staff Who Use Electronic Devices to Breach the Security of Any Test Item Included in Any Statewide Student Assessment*. These actions/consequences remain in effect for SY 2014-15. A pdf of the memo is provided below.



Memo_Statewide Assessments Electronic Devices.pdf

Assessment Section Office Hour

The Assessment Section will conduct an optional Office Hour webinar on **Thursday, February 19 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Test coordinators and others who have questions related to the Department's statewide student assessments (Smarter Balanced, HSA Science, HSA-Ait, EOC, ACT and NAEP) are invited to participate. If you are interested in joining this Assessment Section 'Office Hour' please click the WebEx link below and/or call in at any time between 2:30 and 3:30 to join the teleconference and get answers to any questions you may have. A recording of this Office Hour will be posted on the Assessment Section page on the Department's Intranet site for access and review at your convenience.

Topic: Assessment Section Office Hour
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015
Time: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Hawaii time
Meeting number: 733 745 548
Meeting password: 1234

WebEx has made some changes in the way you join the meeting. To join a meeting:

1. Go to <https://hvl.n.webex.com>
2. If you are not already on the Home page, click the Home tab at the top left.
3. Enter your meeting number in the Blue Box and click Join. If this is the first time you are entering meetings this way, your computer may take several minutes to "process."
4. If requested, enter your name, e-mail address and the meeting password. Click Join.
5. You are now in the meeting and may make your audio selection (Using to Computer or Calling In)

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Meeting number: 733 745 548

Meeting password: 1234

Join by phone

1-877-668-4493 Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

Access code: 733 745 548

If you have trouble connecting to the webinar, please call the Assessment Section Office for assistance at 808-733-4100.

Some schools have heard that the Smarter Balanced Summative ELA and Mathematics Performance Tasks may be administered twice. Please see the correct information provided below.

The Smarter Balanced Summative ELA and Mathematics Computer Adaptive Tests and Performance Tasks may be administered only once.

The Smarter Balanced Interim ELA and Mathematics Computer Adaptive Tests and Performance Tasks for the Interim Comprehensive Assessments and the Interim Assessment Blocks may be administered twice.

Schools are asking when they will receive the Parent Information Booklet for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and when will the Parent Letters be posted on the Smarter Balanced Resources page at alohahsap.org.

A Parent Information Booklet (PIB) will be available in English and in 14 languages during mid-February 2015 on the Smarter Balanced Resources page. The PIB will include information for the grades 3-8 and 11 Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments, the grades 4 and 8 Hawaii State Science Assessments, and the End-of-Course Exams, i.e., Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology I, and U.S. History. Printed copies of one English PIB per student and one translated PIB for identified ELL students whose parents have indicated their home language is a language other than English will be shipped to each school during late February or early March 2015.

—Parent Letters will be available in English and 14 languages for 12 student populations on the Smarter Balanced Resources page during mid-February 2015. The Parent Letters will include information for the grades 3-8 and 11 Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments, the grades 4 and 8 Hawaii State Science Assessments, and the End-of-Course Exams, i.e., Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology I, and U.S. History.

Announcements

Instructions for Using Embedded Glossaries Available – The [Instructions for Using Embedded Glossaries](#) is now available on the Smarter Balanced website. This document was created to provide guidance on using the audio component support - available for the vast majority of translated terms in which students can hear a human translation of the selected term in addition

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to reading it. Additionally, the document describes how students can access the audio component of the Translations (Glossary).

America Achieves launches #TeacherTalk Video Series – This week, the [America Achieves Fellowship](#) launched the #TeacherTalk video series. Every Tuesday, a new [video](#) highlighting teachers and principals from across the country talking to parents about what the Common Core means for their child will be released.

The National PTA releases new assessment resources – This week, the [National PTA](#) released a new factsheet on assessments: “[Moving Beyond the Bubble: Improved Tests are Finally Here!](#)” This factsheet provides parents with important information about what quality assessments should do, and what they are trying to accomplish. The National PTA has also created a standalone page on their website devoted to [assessments](#).

In the News

The Wall Street Journal, 2/4/15

Article: “Common-Core Linked Test Spur Schools to Teach Typing”

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/common-core-linked-tests-spur-schools-to-teach-typing-1423073700>

Education Week, 2/3/15

Blog: “Critical Gaps Linger in States ‘Policies on Postsecondary Readiness, Says Report”

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2015/02/critical_gaps_linger_in_states_policies_on_postsecondary_readiness_says_report.html

The Atlantic, 2/3/15

Article: “The Common Core Has Not Killed Literature”

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/02/the-common-core-has-not-killed-literature/385120/>

Hawaii State Department of Education, 2/2/15

Article: “Hawaii educators trained on new student assessments”

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SuccessStories/Schools/Pages/test-training.aspx>

CDAPress.com (ID), 1/31/15

Op-ed: “Don’t buy the lies of Common Core foes”

http://www.cdapress.com/columns/my_turn/article_5b2dc62f-1768-59f0-b7b7-c848916cfd66.html

Teaching Channel, 1/30/15

Article: “Formative Assessment Practices to Support Student Learning”

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/01/30/formative-assessment-practices-sbac/#more-175564>

EdSource, 1/30/15

Article: “Smarter Balanced “interim assessments” finally released”

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<http://edsources.org/2015/smarter-balanced-interim-assessments-finally-released/73222#.VM-IKWTF9ig>

East Oregonian, 1/30/15

Article: "Teacher prepare students for newer, harder test"

<http://www.eastoregonian.com/eo/local-news/20150130/teachers-prepare-students-for-newer-harder-test>

Follow Smarter Balanced on Twitter—Follow @SmarterBalanced for resources and links to the latest news about the Consortium.

Smarter Balanced Hawaii—Information and resources related to the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments in Hawaii is located at the statewide testing portal:

<http://AlohaHSAP.org>.