



Assessment News

March 13, 2015

Top News This Week

Two Additional Interim Assessment Documents Have Been Posted at alohahsap.org

1. The Interim Assessment Fact Sheet is currently available in the "General Information" folder on the Resources page.

Interim Assessments Fact Sheet [pdf]	This document contains an overview of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments that will be administered during Spring 2015.
--	--

2. The Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring System Training Module is currently available in the "Training" folder on the Resources page.

Teacher Hand Scoring System Training Module [pptx]	This training module provides instructions for accessing and using the Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) for Smarter Balanced Assessments.
--	---

Two Additional Smarter Balanced Documents Have Been Posted at alohahsap.org

1. Smarter Balanced threshold scale scores for four achievement levels, i.e., approved cut scores, are currently available in the "General Information" folder on the Resources page.

States in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium will report scores on its assessments in several ways, which can serve different purposes for their stakeholders. *Scale scores* are the basic units of reporting. These scores, which fall along a continuous vertical scale (from approximately 2000 to 3000) that increases across grade levels, can be used to illustrate students' current level of achievement and their growth over time. When aggregated, these scores can also describe school- or complex area-level changes in performance on the tests and can measure gaps in achievement among different groups of students. The Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics set higher expectations for students and the new tests are designed to assess student performance against these higher standards.

Approved Cut Scores [pdf]	This document provides the approved cut scores for the Smarter Balanced Assessments.
---	--

2. The scribing protocol, i.e., training, for a staff member who will serve as a scribe for a student is currently available in the "Trainings" folder on the Resources page.

Scribing Protocol Training Module (Narrated) [pptx]	This module is designed to help the adult who acts as a scribe for a student understand the guidelines for the scribe designated support and accommodation when administering the Smarter Balanced assessments.
---	---

Assessment News

March 13, 2015

In the News

The Oregonian, 3/11/15

Article: "Nearly 6,000 Oregon students take Common Core tests on first day without major hiccups"
http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2015/03/common_core-aligned_tests.html

EdSource, 3/10/15

Article: "For parents, a new way to view test scores"
<http://edsources.org/2015/for-parents-a-new-way-to-view-test-scores/76254#.VQAvg2TF-nM>

The Oregonian, 3/10/15

Article: "Common Core tests running smoothly at Alice Ott Middle School, aside from minor glitches"
http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2015/03/alice_ott_middle_school_report.html

Argus Leader (SD), 3/10/15

Article: "Common Core –based testing begins in S.D."
<http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/education/2015/03/10/common-core-based-testing-begins-sd/24726117/>

The Oregonian, 3/10/15

Article: "How will the Smarter Balanced test work? Q & A"
http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2015/03/how_exactly_will_the_smarter_b.html

Alliance for Excellent Education, 3/09/15

Op-ed: "Why I'm Opting In"
<http://all4ed.org/why-im-opting-in/>

California Department of Education, 3/15

Video: "Introducing the Smarter Balanced Digital Library"
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/diglibvideo.asp>

EdSource, 3/8/15

Article: "Hand scorers sought for online Common Core tests"
<http://edsources.org/2015/hand-scorers-sought-for-online-common-core-tests/75911#.VP3RsmTF-nM>

Ventura County Star (CA), 3/8/15

Article: "Common Core standards will be tested with new exam"
http://www.vcstar.com/news/education/schoolwatch/common-core-standards-will-be-tested-with-new-exam_38951353

Resources

Data Quality Campaign Factsheet on Education Data—The Data Quality Campaign produced a report outlining myths and facts about the assessment consortia and data privacy. The comprehensive report "Getting the Facts Straight about Education Data" can be accessed here:
<http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/files/Facts%20about%20EdData-CCSS%20Assessments.pdf>.

CCSS Forward—CCSS Forward, a section of the CCSSO website, is designed to provide updates on new resources and shine a spotlight on state leadership with Common Core implementation. It can be found at http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forward_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Common_Core.html.

Khan Academy Common Core resources—Khan Academy has free online resources and exercises that align with the Common Core and that can be personalized to the needs of individual students. The resources can be found at <https://www.khanacademy.org/commoncore>.

Assessment News

March 13, 2015

A Primer on Common Core–Aligned Assessments—Education First developed a briefing for state policymakers and advocates about Common Core–aligned assessment systems, including Smarter Balanced. The presentation can be found at http://www.education-first.com/files/A_Primer_on_Common_Core-Aligned_Assessments_Education_First.pdf.

Key Facts about the Common Core State Standards—Alliance for Excellent Education publications on the CCSS can be found at the following links: <http://www.all4ed.org/files/CCSSFacts.pdf> and <http://www.all4ed.org/files/CommonCore101.pdf>.

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>.

Please contact the Assessment Section at (808) 733-4100 if you have any questions about the information included in this message.