

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

A Beginner's Guide

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments provide educators with timely information about student mastery of the Common Core Standards and how your students are tracking toward college and career readiness.



Check

Interim assessments support teachers by helping them check where students are in their learning and determine where they need additional instruction or if they can move onto more challenging work.



Reflect

Teachers can use the results from interim assessments to help them learn and reflect on what's working and what needs improving in their classroom.



Connect

Educators can connect with their colleagues to discuss and plan next steps for instruction and find resources in the teacher-created and approved Digital Library to enhance their professional learning and improve student performance.

Below are the three types of Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICA)

- Same blueprint as Summative Assessments
- Useful for students who are new to assessments or have experienced a gap in assessment years
- Useful for mid-year checkpoint

Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB)

- Measures 3-8 related targets
- Benchmark assessments
- Easy to fit into your year
- Linked to *Digital Library Connections Playlists*

Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIAB)

- Measures 1-3 Targets
- Unit assessments
- Even easier to incorporate into instruction and provides more targeted information
- 3 per grade level per content area - More to come!
- Linked to *Digital Library Connections Playlists*

4 WAYS TO USE INTERIM ASSESSMENTS

Strategies for using #SBInterims in the classroom

#1 Check whole class' understanding of a single item		QUICK CHECK
	INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY	#2 Check individual or collective understanding via partner or small group work
Calibrate scoring criteria with students in order to engage in self-assessment and peer feedback	CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS	
FORMAL ASSESSMENT		#4 Administered using a standardized approach to measure student learning at a certain point in time

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Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments *Standardized Administration*

There are two ways to administer Interim Assessments: standardized and non-standardized administrations. **Standardized administration** of the Interim Assessments means that you will administer the assessment to your students in a secure environment (like the summative test environment). When administered this way, you will receive valid and reliable reporting that provides important data about student performance.

- **Analyze** student results in *AIRWays Reporting*, which will show you everything from how a student performed on each item to your class's best/worst items.
- Based on student results, develop next steps using *Digital Library Connections Playlists!*



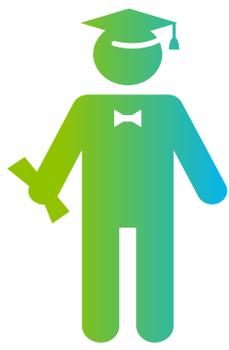
- **Select** the type of Interim Assessment you want to administer based on instructional needs and available time (see page 1).
- **To identify class needs**, rely on last year's summative data (claim/target reporting in the *Online Reporting System*) or your classroom observations.



- **Administer** the test through the *TA Live Site*. Follow all test security procedures and protocol to ensure valid and reliable results.



- **Prepare** yourself by getting familiar with assessment systems (visit alohahsap.org). Consult with your Test Coordinator and request a TA role in *TIDE*. Take the *TA Certification Test*.
- **Work** with your Test Coordinator to ensure all students have the necessary supports identified in *TIDE*.
- **Prepare** all required testing equipment by working with your school's Technology Coordinator.



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Non-Standardized Administration

Non-standardized administration of the Interim Assessments gives educators flexibility to use the interim assessments creatively and integrate them into their own strategies. Steps #1-3 on page 1 show different examples of how educators can get creative with the Interim Assessments. Below are just a few pieces you may need to get started with non-standardized uses of the interim assessments.

Learn about the *Interim Assessment Viewing Application (AVA)*. This application will show educators all items available for all interim assessments. Check with your Test Coordinator to make sure you have a role in TIDE.

Educators can use interim assessment items in various ways, such as projecting the items for group work and discussion.



Interim Assessment Answer Keys can be found in TIDE under “General Resources” (top right corner of the page) and “Download Forms”.

Remember to check with school leaders to see how others are using interim assessments so there are no conflicts between standardized and non-standardized administrations!