



Roseville Joint Union High School District

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The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing the Common Core State Standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers.

- The Common Core State Standards establish consistent academic expectations in English and mathematics for the **knowledge and skills students need to succeed** in college and careers. More than 40 states have adopted these standards and are working to provide teachers and students the support they need to reach them.
- States are partnering in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to develop a new assessment system aligned to the Common Core to measure how well students are progressing toward **readiness for college and careers**.
- The Smarter Balanced assessment system **will replace existing tests**, and offer significant improvements over tests of the past, including writing at every grade, new question types, and **performance tasks** that ask students to demonstrate an array of research, writing, and problem solving skills.
- In addition to measuring student achievement at the end of the school year, the Smarter Balanced assessment system will provide information during the year to give teachers and parents a better picture of where students are succeeding and where they need help.
- The work of Smarter Balanced is guided by the belief that a high-quality assessment system can provide information and tools for teachers and schools to improve instruction and help all students succeed—regardless of disability, language, or background. The assessment system include a wide array of **accessibility tools for all students and accommodations**—such as Braille—for those who need them..

A field test of the Smarter Balanced assessment system will take place from March 25 through June 6 (on request, an optional makeup week is available June 9–13), **culminating a three-year, multi-stage research and development process to ensure these assessments work properly.**

- More than three million students will participate in the field test across 22 states.
- This practice run will help to ensure that the assessments are accurate and fair for all students. It also gives teachers and schools a chance to **practice test administration** procedures, and students the opportunity to experience the new assessments.
- Smarter Balanced will use information from the field test to improve the assessments and plan for their roll-out.

The Smarter Balanced states have worked closely with administrators, teachers, and students for more than two years to ensure a smooth roll-out for the new assessments, and to make sure schools and teachers have the right supports in place.

- For the past two years, Smarter Balanced has worked directly with teachers and students across the country—through labs, discussions, the development of more than 20,000 test questions, and a preliminary pilot test last year—to ensure that the assessments accurately measure the **full breadth and depth of the Common Core**.
- We don't expect this practice run to be perfect, and **we expect to discover challenges**. Working together with teachers and school administrators, states in the Smarter Balanced consortium will address any issues identified prior to the launch of the assessment system in 2014–15.