Interim Assessments

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System has three major components: end-of-year ***summative*** assessments designed for accountability purposes, ***interim*** assessments designed to support teaching and learning throughout the year, and a suite of tools and resources in the Digital Library that support classroom-based ***formative*** assessment practices.

Interim assessments can serve a variety of educator needs. To better support the variety of possible uses consistent with your state educational agency policies, local districts may establish the timeframe, administration policies, and scoring practices for interim assessments. The interim assessments also include all of the accessibility resources that are available in the summative assessment to provide accurate results for all students.

Features of Interim Assessments

- Flexible administration options that better support local purposes
- High quality items that are placed on the same scale as the summative assessment and include the full array of accessibility resources that are available on the end-of-year summative assessment
- May be used to measure students' knowledge and skills in grade levels other than their enrolled grades
- A rigorous item bank that:
  - Covers the range of Depth of Knowledge described in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
  - Is non-secure[1] so that educators may access the test questions and their students' responses to the questions as part of educators' instructional process to address students' relative strengths and needs for improvement

Two Types of Interim Assessments

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) are assessments that measure the same content as the summative assessment. Therefore, the ICAs may be helpful for purposes such as determining the knowledge and skills of students who are new to the district or the state, enrolled in non-tested grades (e.g. grades 9 and 10) and providing interim information after a significant period of instruction.

Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) are assessments teachers can use throughout the school year to focus on more focused sets of related concepts in mathematics and English language arts (ELA). Since the IABs are more granular than the ICA, educators may be better able to administer the assessments during the school year in a manner more consistent with the sequence of their curricula.

[1] The interim assessments are considered non-secure and non-public. This designation provides educators the flexibility to access the questions and their students' responses to the questions. Preventing the interims from being posted publicly also allows educators to use the interim assessments as a standardized assessment if they choose to do so.

What's New?

Over the past year, educators from across the country submitted feedback regarding how to improve the assessments. Based on these recommendations, the 2016–17 interim assessments will:

- Include more unique items across the ICA and IABs
- Include more IABs to measure a greater breadth of content
- Include some revised IABs to measure the content with more specificity

The IAB blueprints for the 2016–17 mathematics and ELA IABs are now available for download from the Smarter Balanced website. The blueprints provide information on the claims and targets assessed within each block, the types of items, and the Depth of Knowledge for the items.

How have the ELA IABs changed?

- **More targeted information**: Edit/revise blocks have been separated to create three blocks for Grades 3–7 and high school. The revised blocks include: revision, editing, and language and vocabulary use.

- **New Items**: Each research block is now more robust with the addition of new items. In total, over 200 new items have been added to the interims. The interim blocks available for 2016–17 are outlined below, with blocks that we have revised or added to noted:

Grades 3-7	Grade 8	High School
Read Literary Texts	Read Literary Texts	Read Literary Texts
Read Informational Texts	Read Informational Texts	Read Informational Texts
Brief Writes	Brief Writes	Brief Writes
Revision*	Edit/Revise***	Revision*
Language and Vocabulary Use*		Language and Vocabulary Use*
Editing*		Editing*
Listen/Interpret	Listen/Interpret	Listen/Interpret
Research**	Research**	Research**
Performance Task	Performance Task	Performance Task

* IAB is new for 2016–17
** IAB includes new items in 2016–17
*** The Edit/Revise IAB for grade 8 will be separated as soon as possible when items are available in the item bank.

How have the Mathematics IABs changed?

- **More Blocks:** Eleven new blocks have been added that measure the following domains: Number and Operations in Base Ten, Measurement and Data, Geometry, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, The Number System, Statistics and Probability, and Expressions and Equations.

- **New Items**: In total, 186 new items have been added to the interims. The interim blocks available for 2016–17 are outlined below, with new or revised blocks noted:

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Operations and Algebraic Thinking**	Operations and Algebraic Thinking**	Operations and Algebraic Thinking*
Number and Operations – Fractions**	Number and Operations – Fractions**	Number and Operations – Fractions**
Measurement and Data	Measurement and Data*	Measurement and Data**
Number and Operations in Base Ten*	Number and Operations in Base Ten	Number and Operations in Base Ten
	Geometry*	Geometry*
Mathematics Performance Task	Mathematics Performance Task	Mathematics Performance Task

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	Ratio and Proportional Relationships**	Expressions & Equations I**
The Number System*	The Number System**	Expressions & Equations II (with Prob/Stat)*
Expressions and Equations**	Expressions and Equations**	Functions**
Geometry**	Geometry*	Geometry**
Statistics and Probability*	Statistics and Probability*	
Mathematics Performance Task	Mathematics Performance Task	Mathematics Performance Task

High School
Algebra and Functions I - Linear Functions, Equations, and Inequalities**
Algebra and Functions II - Quadratic Functions, Equations, and Inequalities**
Geometry and Right Triangle Trigonometry**
Statistics and Probability*
Mathematics Performance Task

* IAB is new for 2016–17
** IAB has been revised for 2016–17