



OPI Allowed Interim Use to Support Remote Learning

Rationale:

Per the Governor's directive on March 24, public school closures have been extended to April 10 ([EO 3-2020](#)):

“...a district will not be required to reschedule in-person pupil-instruction time lost because of the closure if the board of trustees for the district approves the district's plan/report that it has made up the lost pupil-instruction time through remote learning, provided for meals for students, provided for services to students with disabilities, and provided other services customarily provided to students in school. Districts will present an initial plan to the board of trustees.”

This guidance serves to support school districts who implementing remote learning plans. Several school leaders have reached out to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) requesting the use of the free interims as a tool during this novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The OPI through its contract with Cambium Assessment, Inc. will continue to allow districts to access these resources. This is state-specific guidance for Montana educators to use in a remote-proctoring situation. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia has also provided a [website for educators](#) with suggestions regarding how to use Smarter Balanced resources while teaching remotely, including questions and answers, do's and don'ts, and planning resources.

Using Interims and the *Digital Library* for Remote Learning: The [Digital Library](#) contains nearly 3,000 educator resources aligned to Montana Content Standards to help teachers with their remote teaching and learning goals. The resources in the Digital Library support educators with formative assessment process. Some of these resources include:

- Ideas, activities and lessons that can be infused in a remote-learning situation,
- Differentiated strategies for special populations, and
- Connections to the interims that offer collections of instructional resources-called *Playlists*-that represent a progression of skills or understanding for a topic.

Note that the *Digital Library* will be retired on May 28 and replaced with *Tools for Teachers* on June 16. The *Tools for Teachers* resource will be an easy to use website featuring interactive *Connections Playlists* you can use with interim assessments, resources aligned to learning standards, and accessibility instructional strategies.

Smarter Balanced Consortium members developed the interim assessments for instructional use to support teaching and learning. Interim assessments may serve a variety of educators' needs; however, they are not intended to be used for accountability purposes. Interim assessments must be maintained as non-public and semi-secure resources. This means Montana educators cannot post any interim assessment questions publicly, such as on district or teacher websites, or any third-party software application. Prior to implementing interims via

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remote proctoring, districts should consider the following logistical requirements and plan accordingly:

- Maintain student data privacy with student SSID cards, which are required to take an interim, and
- Establish a synchronous time to administer and monitor interims.

[2019-20 Interim Assessments Overview Document](#)

[The Digital Library](#)

[Tools for Teachers](#)