

1. When will the Smarter Balanced Field Test be administered?

March 18 to June 6, 2014.

2. What content areas are included?

The Smarter Balanced assessments are in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.

3. What grades can take the Smarter Balanced Field Test?

Students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 will be involved in the Smarter Balanced Field Test. A small number of students in grades 9 and 10 also will participate to support a special study.

4. Will the Field Test be administered on paper or only on computer?

The Field Test will be administered only via computer. Schools can review the [technology specifications](#) to be sure they meet the minimum requirements and to determine the number of computers needed to support the Field Test.

5. Which states will participate in the Field Test?

All Consortium members have the opportunity to participate in the Field Test.

6. My school is planning to administer the Field Test. Will training be available?

Yes, Smarter Balanced will make available approximately 10 web-based training modules by the end of January 2014. These modules will include topics such as:

- Introduction to the Field Test (geared toward students)
- What is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)?
- Performance Tasks
- Test Administrator Training
- Administrator Interface
- Student Interface
- Accommodations
- Tools for Student Use
- Technology Requirements
- TIDE User Roles

In addition to these training modules, there will be a *Field Test Coordinator Manual*, a *Field Test Administrator Manual* and some user-specific checklists available in mid-February.

7. Will my school also need to administer our regular state test?

Whether or not a school also needs to administer the regular state test is a decision that will be or has already been made by your state department of education. Some states will administer the Field Test in place of their state accountability test; in other states, the Field Test will be administered in addition to the state accountability test.

8. Can private schools participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test?

No. The approved Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium scope of work and budget prevent the involvement of private schools in the administration of the Pilot or Field Tests. The inclusion of private schools in the operational administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments is subject to state policy, legislation and regulations.

9. Will the Field Test be an adaptive test?

Most students participating in the Field Test will receive a fixed-form test in mathematics or English language arts/literacy—with questions of varying difficulty. The length and content coverage (e.g., the number of test items on problem solving or the number of items on algebra) of the Field Test is designed to model the operational assessment that will be used in 2015 and beyond.

The 2015 operational assessment will be adaptive. To create an adaptive test, each test item must have an established difficulty value. The Field Test will collect the statistics necessary to establish those item-level difficulty values. Toward the end of the Field Test administration window, Smarter Balanced will begin testing the adaptive engine, and some students may receive questions selected adaptively based on their responses.