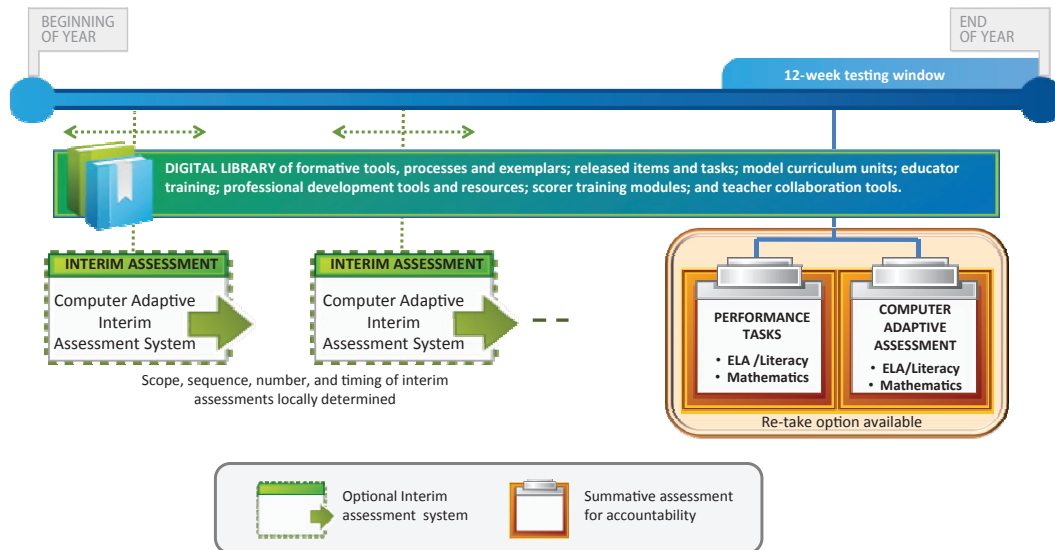


The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium



Description of Major Smarter Balanced Features

Digital Library: The Digital Library will be launched in Summer 2014 and contain optional resources to support teachers and students in grades K–12, including formative tools and exemplars, modules for Assessment Literacy and Exemplar Instruction, a Practice Test utility, a reporting suite, and teacher collaboration tools.

Optional Interim Assessment System:

Interim Assessment System: This system will allow educators to deliver computer-adaptive assessments at locally determined intervals to gain information about student progress throughout the year. The multiple item types will reflect those on the summative assessments. Districts or schools can select to administer interim assessments that either mirror the summative assessment or that focus on a smaller cluster of standards. The item bank will be fully accessible to educators for instruction and professional development. First launched in January 2015, the interim assessments will not be adaptive until the 2016–17 school year.

Summative Assessment: Provided for grades 3–8 and 11, these assessments will consist of one Performance Task and an End-of-Year Adaptive Assessment for each tested content area. Total testing time for ELA/literacy and math, across a maximum 12-week testing window, is expected to range from 7 hours at grade 3 to 8.5 hours at grade 11. States may purchase summative assessments for grades 9, 10, and/or 12.

Performance Tasks: Students will complete one ELA/literacy task and one math task that generally require 90–120 minutes each. Tasks will focus on hard-to-measure standards and real-world scenarios, and will measure students’ ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards.

End-of-Year Adaptive Assessment: These computer-adaptive assessments will consist of innovative item types, most of which can be immediately machine scored. If needed to gain sufficient score precision, items from out of grade level may be used.

Accountability: Scores from the Performance Task and End-of-Year Adaptive Assessment will be combined for the student’s annual accountability score. Subject to state approval, Smarter Balanced will make available one retake for students in grades 3–8 and 11 for instances of an irregularity in the administration of the assessment.

Implementation: All system components will be operational by the 2014–15 school year, although the Interim Assessment System will not be adaptive until 2016–17.

Estimated Cost: \$22.50 per student per year for all online summative assessments, delivered and scored, or \$33.50 per student for the paper-and-pencil versions. The package of optional interim and formative assessment services will cost an additional \$4.80 per student.