

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

April 1 to May 16, 2014.

2. What content areas are included?

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

3. What grades will take the Smarter Balanced Field Test in Idaho?

All students in grades 3 through 11 will take the Field Test, with three exceptions: 11th graders who have not yet passed the ISAT, students eligible to take the ISAT alt, and LEP1 students.

4. How long should schools plan for testing?

These estimated times are based on the time it took students to complete the Smarter Balanced Pilot Test.*

Content Area	Grades	Non-Performance Task items	Performance Task	Total	In-Class Activity	Total
English Language Arts/Literacy	3-5	1:30	2:00	3:30	:30	4:00
	6-8	1:30	2:00	3:30	:30	4:00
	9-11	2:00	2:00	4:00	:30	4:30
Mathematics	3-5	1:30	1:00	2:30	:30	3:00
	6-8	2:00	1:00	3:00	:30	3:30
	9-11	2:00	1:30	3:30	:30	4:00
Both	3-5	3:00	3:00	6:00	1:00	7:00
	6-8	3:30	3:00	6:30	1:00	7:30
	9-11	4:00	3:30	7:30	1:00	8:30

*The test duration estimates described in the table above are applicable to most students. However, Smarter Balanced assessments are not timed tests. Some students may need more time and some students may need less time to complete the assessment.

5. How will content areas be assigned for the Field Test?

Since all schools in Idaho will participate in the Field Test, all schools will test in both content areas: mathematics and English language arts/literacy. In other states, schools may be assigned to test in one or the other content area.

6. 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.

7. Which states will participate in the Field Test?

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

8. 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.

9. 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, like Idaho, will administer the Field Test in place of their state accountability test (ISAT); in other states, the Field Test will be administered in addition to the state accountability test.

10. 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.

11. 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)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SPRING 2014 FIELD TEST

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.