



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
- A rigorous item bank that covers the Depth of Knowledge in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Non-secure item bank that allows educators to access their students' responses as part of their instructional process to address students' relative strengths and needs for improvement

Two Types of Interim Assessments

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) are non-secure¹ assessments that measure the same content as the summative assessment, and the blueprint is derived from the summative assessment as well. The ICAs may be used to measure students' knowledge and skills in grade levels other than their enrolled grades. Therefore, the ICAs may be helpful for measuring students' skills defined in the CCSS for purposes such as determining the knowledge and skills students have retained after summer break, providing insight for students new to the district or the state, and providing interim information after a significant period of instruction.

Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) are periodic assessments teachers can use throughout the school year to focus on sets of related concepts in mathematics and English language arts (ELA). The IABs result in data that teachers can use to inform instruction by revealing their students' areas of strength and weakness.

¹ The interims 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
- Include some additional IABs that measure 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	Listen/Interpret	Language and Vocabulary Use
Editing	<i>*Research</i>	Editing
Listen/Interpret	Performance Task	Listen/Interpret
<i>*Research</i>		<i>*Research</i>
Performance Task		Performance Task

New IAB	<i>*New Items</i>
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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
* <i>Operations and Algebraic Thinking</i>	* <i>Operations and Algebraic Thinking</i>	Number and Operations in Base Ten
* <i>Number and Operations – Fractions</i>	* <i>Number and Operations – Fractions</i>	* <i>Number and Operations – Fractions</i>
Measurement and Data	Number and Operations in Base Ten	* <i>Measurement and Data</i>
Number and Operations in Base Ten	Geometry	Geometry
Mathematics Performance Task	Measurement and Data	Operations and Algebraic Thinking
	Mathematics Performance Task	Mathematics Performance Task

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

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

New IAB	* <i>Revised IAB</i>
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