



SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS

Grades 3-8

Preparing Students for Success

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics and preparing all Nevada students for success in college and careers. Administered online, these new assessments provide an academic check-up and are designed to give teachers and parents better information to help students succeed.

Beginning in school year 2014-15, Smarter Balanced assessments will replace the Reading and Math criterion referenced tests (CRTs) in grades 3-8 and Writing in grades 5 and 8. Scores from the new assessments represent a realistic baseline that provides a more accurate indicator for teachers, students, and parents as they work to meet the rigorous demands of college and career readiness.

Key Features

- ✓ Writing at every grade
- ✓ New question types and performance tasks that ask students to demonstrate an array of research, writing, and problem solving skills
- ✓ Accessibility tools for all students and accommodations - such as Braille - for those who need them
- ✓ Developed with input from K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, and other experts from Nevada and other states

More than Just a Year-End Test

Year-end summative assessments accurately describe both student achievement and growth of student learning in English and math. Summative assessments include a computer adaptive test and performance tasks that challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to real-world problems. The summative assessments will be administered in grades 3-8 and will be available to schools beginning in spring 2015.

Beginning in school year 2015-16, teachers will have access to resources that help them check in on student progress throughout the year.

- The **Digital Library** is an online collection of resources aligned to the NVACS in ELA and math that help teachers improve classroom-based assessment practices. The Digital Library encourages collaboration and interaction, allowing teachers to rate materials and share their classroom experiences through online discussions.
- **Optional interim assessments** allow schools to check student progress and help teachers plan and improve instruction. Schools will have two flexible administration options: Interim Comprehensive Assessments that mirror the year-end assessment; or Interim Assessment Blocks that focus on smaller sets of related standards and provide more detailed information for instructional purposes.

Take the Test

Gain familiarity with the test software platform and sample test questions for grades 3-8

Take the Practice Test:
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>