



# Assessment Update on Smarter Balanced and the National Center and State Collaborative

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Advisory Commission on Special Education

May 1, 2014



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# Presentation Overview

- Smarter Balanced Update
- California Alternate Assessment Staff
- NCSC Phase I Pilot
- NCSC Grant Next Steps
- Future Steps for California
- Alternate Assessment Resources
- Alternate Assessment Contact Information



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## As of April 29, 2014 Smarter Balance Field Test Progress

	DAILY		CUMULATIVE			UNIQUE STUDENTS	
	Started	Completed	Started	Completed		Started	Completed
<b>California</b>	<b>546,295</b>	<b>394,982</b>	<b>5,378,910</b>	<b>4,787,054</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>2,303,991</b>	<b>2,123,100</b>
Connecticut	38,182	35,469	600,207	558,257	93%	201068	185027
Delaware	181	174	21,396	20,072	94%	11137	10843
Hawaii	811	636	29,990	24,130	80%	11245	10152
Idaho	26,810	24,761	510,821	431,043	84%	159419	150753
Iowa	810	756	9,241	8,684	94%	4762	4352
Maine	695	430	28,948	26,268	91%	11847	11261
Michigan	4,816	4,864	77,135	68,333	89%	38764	34731
Missouri	1,128	815	24,093	23,030	96%	13473	12934
Montana	9,710	10,324	222,280	210,475	95%	65078	63848
Nevada	3,964	3,535	26,590	24,175	91%	15585	14153
New Hampshire	349	295	19,431	17,561	90%	9704	9265
North Carolina	172	160	2,229	2,171	97%	1178	1154
North Dakota	477	375	11,238	10,511	94%	4778	4577
Oregon	305	576	13,418	11,159	83%	6480	5652
South Carolina	0	0	16,304	15,384	94%	9037	8662
South Dakota	8,074	9,093	247,663	242,873	98%	67599	66987
US Virgin Islands	0	0	409	384	94%	259	249
Vermont	692	339	13,861	12,860	93%	3981	3686
Washington	35,143	29,835	205,919	173,817	84%	101997	85717
West Virginia	232	255	17,070	16,696	98%	9053	8930
Wisconsin	2,540	1,380	75,108	68,651	91%	40112	37570
Wyoming	393	383	2,620	2,480	95%	1226	1192
<b>Total</b>	<b>681,779</b>	<b>519,437</b>	<b>7,554,881</b>	<b>6,756,068</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>3,091,773</b>	<b>2,854,795</b>



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# Smarter Balanced Field Test Updates

- In California, about 3.4 million students will participate in the Field Test
- First week – 154,000 students began testing
- Day 25 of testing – over 2 million students have completed testing
- More than 140,000 students were testing simultaneously on April 28



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# Smarter Balanced Field Test Formative Feedback

- Mid-test Survey
- Post-test Survey for test coordinators/ administrators
  - Assignment of accommodations
  - Identification of issues related to accommodations
- Feedback survey for parents, teachers, and students by the



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# Smarter Balanced Field Test Accessibility Issues

- Designating the correct accommodation in TIDE
- Requests for Accessibility Supports include read aloud for ELA, grades 3-5
- Braille accommodations
- Confusion regarding embedded and non-embedded



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# The Smarter Balanced Digital Library

- This is an optional component that the state will make available to California LEAs.
- Will be comprised of exemplar resources for instructional practices and professional learning.
- Resources will assist teachers in using the formative assessment process.



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# The Smarter Balanced Digital Library

- All resources are vetted using Quality Criteria, assuring instruction that will address all students' needs.
- The library is scheduled to launch in fall 2014 – a preview of the Digital Library is scheduled for June 3 – September 30.



# Smarter Balanced Formative Assessment Tools



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- A **deliberate** process used by teachers and students **during instruction** to adjust teaching and learning with the purpose of improving students' attainment of learning goals.
- The formative assessment process includes four attributes:
  - Clarify intended learning
  - Elicit evidence
  - Interpret evidence
  - Act on evidence



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# Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

- Anticipated launch in late fall 2014.
- Created from the test items deemed valid, reliable and fair through the Smarter Balanced Field Test.
- Will build out over time.



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# Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

- Two Types:
  - Comprehensive Interim Assessment (CIA), similar to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.
  - Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB), groups of items that will assess certain aspects of a topic.
- Both will start out as fixed-form assessments and then transition to computer adaptive tests (CAT).



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# Smarter Balanced Field Test Support

- CAASPP Office
- E-mail to [CAASPP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:CAASPP@cde.ca.gov)
- CDE Webcasts on accessibility and accommodations
- Field Test Flashes
- CalTAC phone and e-mail support

# Smarter Balanced Resources for Field Test



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Documents and resources on  
California Field Test Portal:

<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/ca/field-test-ca/resources/>

- Modules and videos
- Demonstrations
- Manuals



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# Field Test Webcast Archives and Forms

- Webcasts
- Forms
- Manuals
- Field Test

<http://californiatac.org/>

The screenshot shows the CaliforniaTAC website homepage. At the top left is the CaliforniaTAC logo. Below it is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Test Administration, Training, and Calendar. A dropdown menu is open under Test Administration, listing Instructions and Manuals, DFAs, Forms, Test Management System, and Reporting. The main content area features a section titled "California Testing in 2014" with text about LEA testing coordinators and a list of tests. On the right, there are two sidebars: "Important Updates" with links to TIDE student data, training site, practice test, and secure browsers; and "Smarter Balanced Field Test" with a logo and information about the portal. At the bottom right, there is a "Need Help?" section with contact information for the California Technical Assistance Center.

Contact Us

Home About Test Administration Training Calendar

Instructions and Manuals  
DFAs  
Forms  
Test Management System  
Reporting

### California Testing in 2014

California local educational agency (LEA) testing coordinators can use this Web site to find helpful information, instructions, training, forms, and external links for the 2014 test administration.

LEAs are administering two types of tests in 2014:

**Computer-based Smarter Balanced Field Tests:**

- English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics—grades 3–8 and 11 (some schools will also test grades 9 and 10)

**Paper-based tests:**

- California Standards Tests (CSTs) for Science—grades 5, 8, and 10
- California Modified Assessment (CMA) for Science—grades 5, 8, and 10 who meet the eligibility requirements to take this instead of a CST for Science
- California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) for Science—grades 5, 8, and 10 who meet the CAPA requirements
- CAPA for ELA and Mathematics—grades 2–11 who meet the CAPA requirements
- CSTs for students in grade 11 participating in the Early Assessment Program
- Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) for Reading/Language Arts—grades 2–11 (voluntary)

[About California Testing in 2014 >](#)

#### Important Updates

[Check your TIDE student data](#) and update CALPADS by February 18.

Train your site coordinators and test administrators using the [TA Training Site](#).

Encourage students to use the [Practice Test](#).

[The California Smarter Balanced portal is now available.](#)

[All secure browsers for the Field Test are now available.](#)

Paper tests: Submit Pre-ID information before your deadline.

#### Smarter Balanced Field Test

California Smarter Balanced Field Test Portal

California-specific portal to all Smarter Balanced Field Test information, systems, and resources

#### Need Help?

California Technical Assistance Center  
800-955-2954  
[caltac@ets.org](mailto:caltac@ets.org)



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# California Alternate Assessments: ADAD Staff

- Diane Hernandez, Director, Assessment Development and Administration Division
- Lily Roberts, Ph.D., Administrator, English Language Proficiency and Alternate Assessments (ELPAA) Office
  - State assessment lead for NCSC assessment
- Sheila Self, Consultant, ELPAA Office
  - NCSC Phase I Pilot recruitment
  - NCSC local educational agencies (LEAs) liaison
- Don Killmer, Consultant, ELPAA Office
  - CAPA
  - CAASPP Regulations



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# California Alternate Assessments: NCSC

- September 2012: California joined NCSC as a Tier II state
- June-August 2013: ADAD staff and LEA representatives participated in item reviews with other NCSC states
- September 16-18, 2013: ADAD staff participated in a multistate governance meeting to discuss post NCSC-grant governance
- November 25, 2013: Letter from ADAD to LEAs advising them of the upcoming Phase I Pilot and that school registration opened on this date
- March 18, 2014: Letter from ADAD to LEAs participating in the Phase I Pilot





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# California Alternate Assessments: NCSC (cont.)

- Communication activities include:
  - Presentations at the SBE and to the SBE's Advisory Commission on Special Education
  - Presentations to other stakeholders, such as the Regional Assessment Network and to testing and accountability coordinators at the North/South Informational Meeting
  - Letters and emails to LEAs
  - Call campaign to recruit LEAs for the Phase I Pilot



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# California Alternate Assessments: NCSC (cont.)

- Coming soon:
  - Updated California Department of Education (CDE) Web page on Alternate Assessments that includes CAPA and NCSC assessment information
- New ADAD e-mail to support LEAs engaged in the NCSC Phase I Pilot and CAPA administration:  
[AlternateAssessment@cde.ca.gov](mailto:AlternateAssessment@cde.ca.gov)



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# California Alternate Assessments: NCSC (cont.)

- CDE entered into Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Compliance Agreements to support the NCSC assessment
  - CTB: Allow access to student level data for the administration of the Phase I Pilot
  - Breakthrough Technologies, LLC: CTB subcontractor for integration of the open-source assessment platform into the NCSC system
  - edCount, LLC: Responsible for validity research and project evaluation



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# NCSC Phase I Pilot

## Purpose:

- Collect data about how students interact with the items
- Gather information about how items function
- Examine test administration conditions
- Review item scoring processes



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# NCSC Phase I Pilot: California Timeline

- February 7, 2014: Registration closed for **schools** to participate in the NCSC Phase I Pilot
- March 11, 2014: Registration closed for **students** to participate in the NCSC Phase I Pilot
- March 26, 2014: Examiner online training began
- April 14, 2014: Testing window opens
- May 23, 2014: Testing window closes



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# NCSC Phase I Pilot: Sample

- National sample
  - 23 of 24 NCSC states participating
  - Nearly 18,000 students
- California sample
  - 177 LEAs registered to participate
    - Nearly 450 schools
    - Approximately 7,200 students
  - Students also will take the CAPA



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# NCSC Phase I Pilot: Student

- The student has an individualized educational program (IEP).
- The student must have a significant cognitive disability.
- The student is learning content linked to the CCSS.
- The student's need for individualized instruction is not temporary or transient.



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# NCSC Phase I Pilot: Examiners

- Examiners must be an employee of the LEA.
- Only trained certified/licensed teachers may administer the assessment.
- Examiners must sign the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Test Security Affidavit.
- If the examiner is not the student's teacher, the examiner should be someone who the student is familiar and comfortable with.





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# NCSC Phase I Pilot: Training

- March 17, 2014: Test Administration Manual (TAM) was released and can be found at [teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com](http://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com)
- March 26, 2014: Learning Management System (LMS) was opened.
  - The LMS includes eight professional development modules with quizzes to expand upon the information provided in the TAM.
  - The modules are online, self-paced, and must be completed before test administration.
- For questions about training, contact <https://lms.ncscpartners.org>



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# NCSC Phase I Pilot: Administration

- Test Administration Portal (TAP): NCSC system for accessing the pilot test. Requires successful completion of quizzes in the LMS.
- Test Length: About 30 items that assess a set of approximately 10 grade-specific core standards for each grade assessed.
- Test Time: 1.5 to 2 hours per student per content area (mathematics and ELA)
- Results: No district- or student-level reports will be provided because this is a test of item functionality.



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# NCSC Grant Next Steps

- Phase II Pilot Timeline
  - Registration begins in May 2014
  - Administration begins October through mid-November 2014
- Phase II Pilot Purpose
  - Test additional items, including writing
  - Test adaptive engine
- Operational Assessment
  - Administration begins spring 2015
  - Includes student level data reporting
  - Standard Setting will be conducted in summer 2015
  - Technical Reports will be produced in fall 2015



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# Future Steps for California

- State Board of Education must adopt a successor assessment to the CAPA that is aligned to the California CCSS in ELA and mathematics
- Science items aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards will need to be developed
- Options for selecting a successor to the CAPA include:
  1. Independently design an alternate assessment based on the work produced by NCSC
  2. Participate in a multi-state consortium, based on the work of the NCSC grant, for the development and administration of future alternate assessments
  3. Consider the work products of other consortia in the development of an alternate assessment for ELA, mathematics, and/or science



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# Alternate Assessment Resources

- CCSS and CDE Special Education Web site can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/cc/>.
- NCSC grant Web site can be found at <http://www.ncscpartners.org>.
- Frequently Asked Questions for the NCSC Phase I Pilot can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/cc/ncscphase1faq.asp>.
- Coming soon CDE Alternate Assessment Web site
  - CAPA administration
  - NCSC Phase I Pilot



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# Contact Information

Lily Roberts, Ph.D., Administrator

- English Language Proficiency and Alternate Assessments (ELPAA) Office
- ELPAA Office phone: 916-319-0784
- E-mail: [AlternateAssessment@cde.ca.gov](mailto:AlternateAssessment@cde.ca.gov)

Linda Hooper, Ph.D., Administrator

- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Office
- CAASPP Office phone: 916-445-8765
- E-mail: [CAASPP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:CAASPP@cde.ca.gov)