Smarter Balanced 101 – Part I –
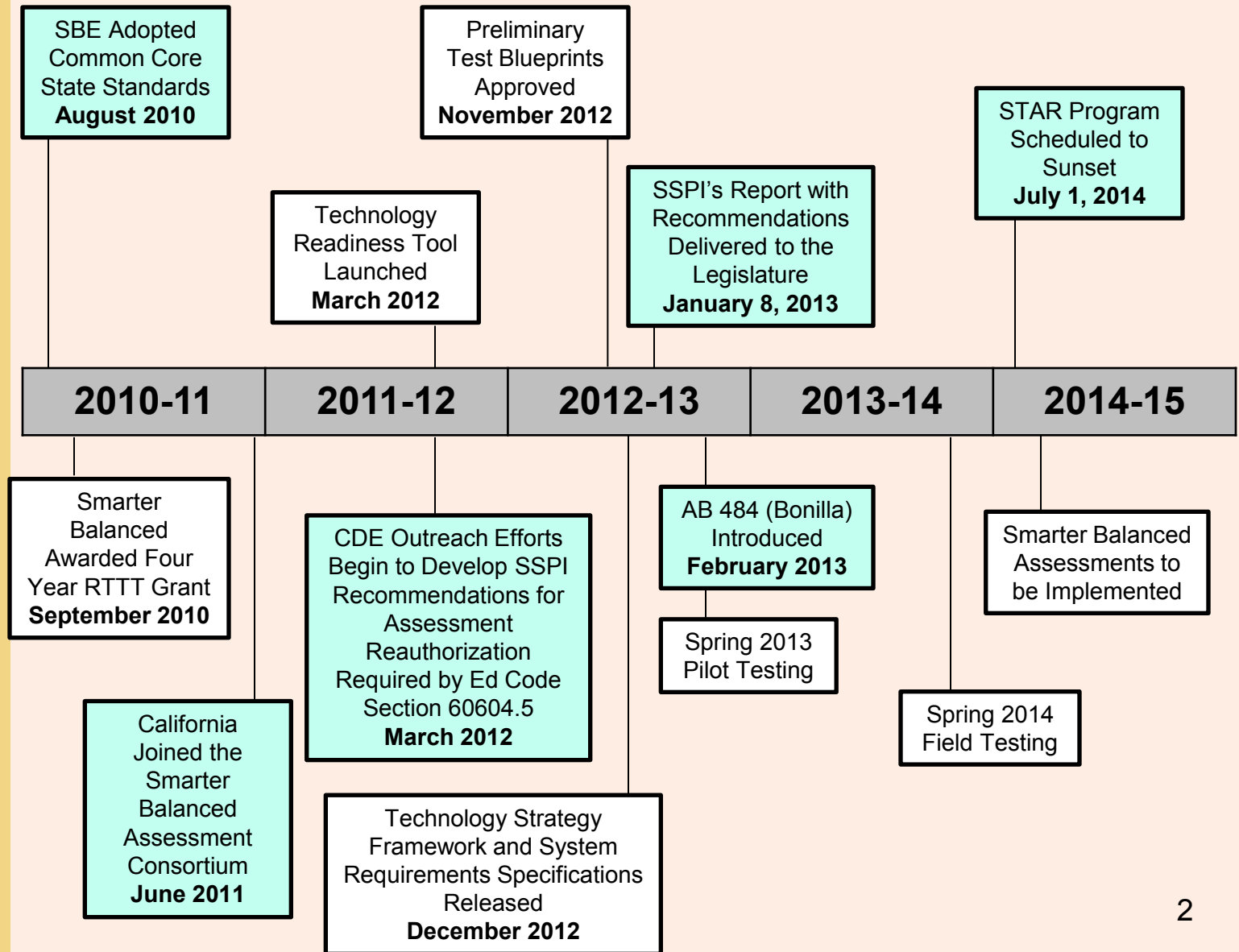
Solano County Office of Education

April 16, 2013

Jessica Valdez

Statewide Assessment Transition Office
Assessment Development and Administration Division
California Department of Education

Transition Milestones

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15

Above the timeline:

SBE Adopted Common Core State Standards
August 2010

Technology Readiness Tool Launched
March 2012

Preliminary Test Blueprints Approved
November 2012

SSPI's Report with Recommendations Delivered to the Legislature
January 8, 2013

STAR Program Scheduled to Sunset
July 1, 2014

Below the timeline:

Smarter Balanced Awarded Four Year RTTT Grant
September 2010

California Joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
June 2011

CDE Outreach Efforts Begin to Develop SSPI Recommendations for Assessment Reauthorization Required by Ed Code Section 60604.5
March 2012

Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications Released
December 2012

AB 484 (Bonilla) Introduced
February 2013

Spring 2013 Pilot Testing

Spring 2014 Field Testing

Smarter Balanced Assessments to be Implemented

Smarter Balanced Assessment System

Summative assessments benchmarked to college and career readiness (Grades 3-8 and 11)

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness

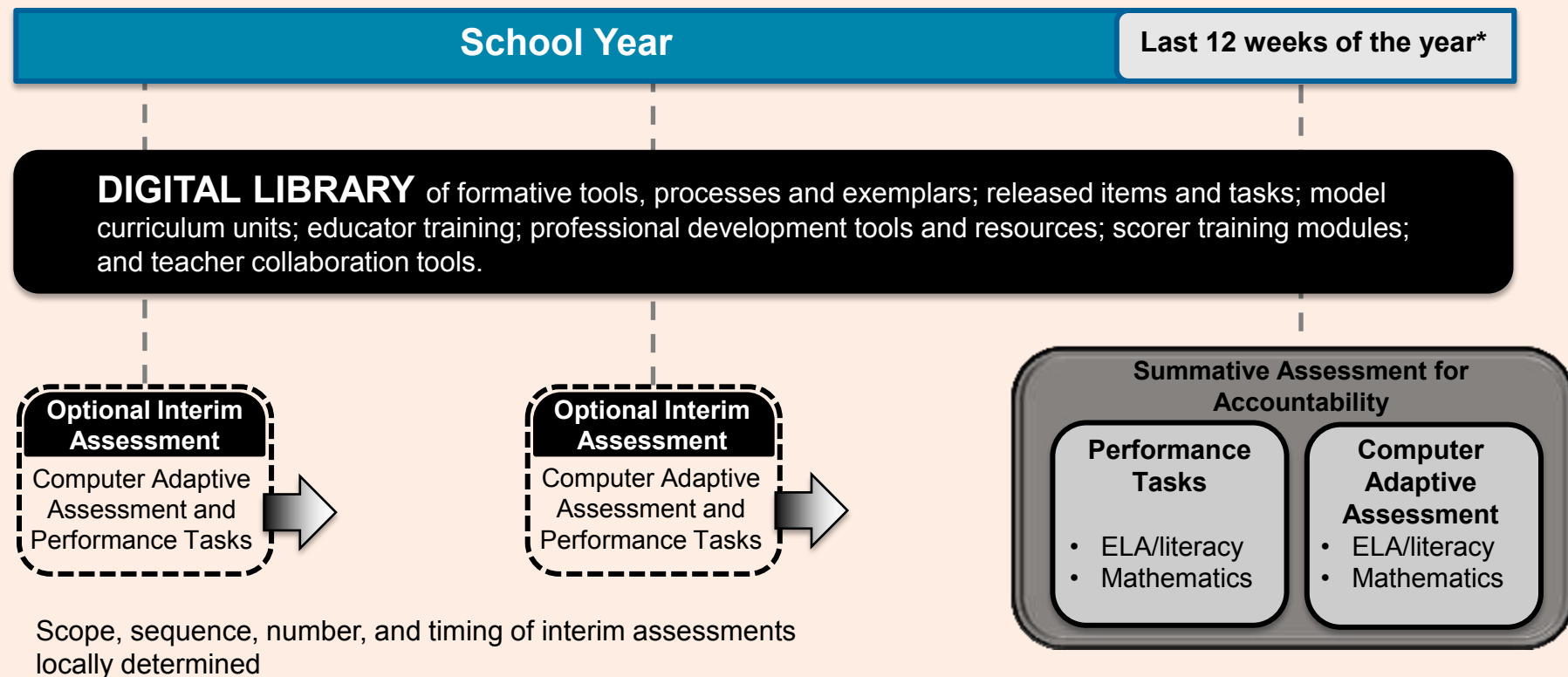Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning

All students leave high school college and career ready

Formative assessment tools and practices for teachers to improve instruction

Interim assessments Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback (Grades 3-11)

Smarter Balanced Assessment System

ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3-8 and High School

School Year	Last 12 weeks of the year*

DIGITAL LIBRARY of formative tools, processes and exemplars; released items and tasks; model curriculum units; educator training; professional development tools and resources; scorer training modules; and teacher collaboration tools.

Optional Interim Assessment
Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

Optional Interim Assessment
Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

Summative Assessment for Accountability

Performance Tasks
- ELA/literacy
- Mathematics

Computer Adaptive Assessment
- ELA/literacy
- Mathematics

Scope, sequence, number, and timing of interim assessments locally determined

*Time windows may be adjusted based on results from the research agenda and final implementation decisions.

Smarter Balanced Member States
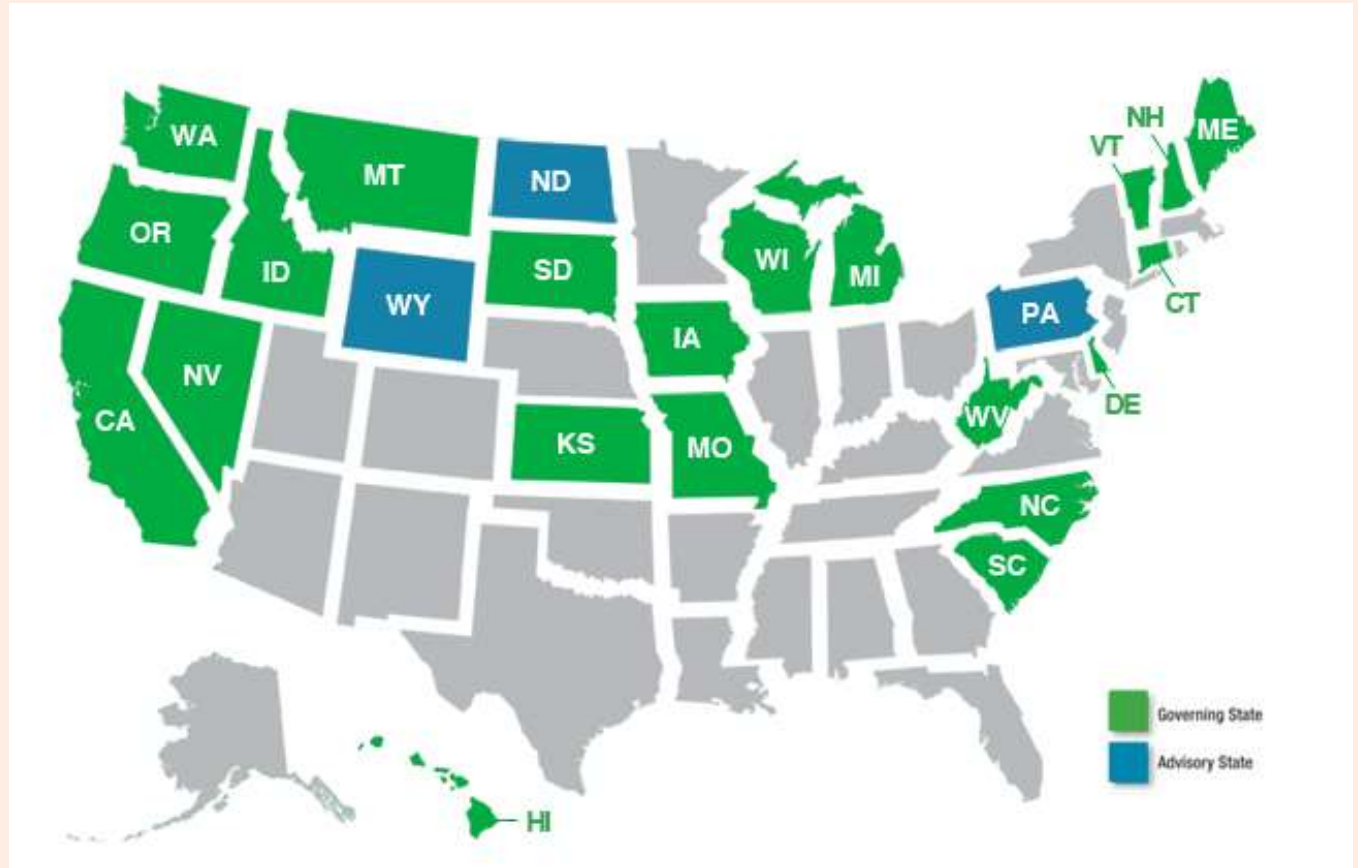
➢ 24 states educating approximately 20 million public K-12 students

State Governance and Participation

- Consortium led by state K-12 and higher education representatives. All major decisions are subject to state vote.

- Executive committee oversees assessment development and consortium funding.
  - Deb Sigman, CDE Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, District, School, and Innovation Branch (Co-Chair)
  - Beverly Young, Assistant Vice Chancellor, California State University

- Standing advisory panels of experts on various topics (e.g., technical advisory committee, English learner advisory committee)

- Workgroups with over 80 staff from member states and higher education institutions which help design the system.

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Smarter Balanced Work Groups

1. Item Development/Performance Tasks

2. Validation and Psychometrics/Test Design

3. Formative Assessment Practices and Professional Learning/Transition to CCSS

4. Test Administration/Student Access

5. Technology Approach/Reporting

California Participation

- CDE Staff
  - Executive committee co-chair
  - Work group representatives
  - Technology readiness coordinator
  - Teacher involvement coordinator

- K-12 and Higher Education Staff
  - Item writing, review, and scoring
  - ALD development
  - Evaluation of formative assessment tools
  - Members of consortium expert panels

- Parents, students, business leaders

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

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Smarter Balanced 101 – Part II –

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Assessment Development and Administration Division
California Department of Education

Smarter Balanced Item Types

- Selected-Response

- Constructed-Response

- Technology-Enhanced

- Performance Task

Sample items available on the Smarter Balanced Web page at: http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/

Initial Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

- Articulate the knowledge and skills expected of students at different levels of performance.

- Developed at the beginning of test development so expectations for student performance can guide test development.

- Approved by governing states in March 2013

- Available on the Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievementlevel-descriptors-and-college-readiness

Initial Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

- **Policy ALDs:** guide test development and conceptualization

- **Range ALDs:** guide item writing

- **Threshold ALDs:** guide cut score recommendation and standard setting

- **Reporting ALDs:** guide test score interpretation (to be developed after pilot and field testing and standard setting)

Preliminary Test Blueprints

- Provide clear test development specifications, including:
  - Content, number of items, item types, score points, and depth of knowledge for items

- Estimated student testing time per subject is 2½ to 4 hours

- Number of items per test varies

- One performance tasks per test

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Preliminary Test Blueprints

- Approved by governing states in November 2012

- Considered preliminary until after review of the data gathered from the pilot and field tests

- Available on the Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/

Preliminary Test Blueprint Sample

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

ELA/Literacy Preliminary Summative Assessment Blueprint
Blueprint Table ELA/Literacy Grades 3-5—Table 3a

Estimated Total Testing Time: 3:30 (without classroom component)

Claim	Content Category	Stimuli		Scored Tasks		Total CAT Items by Claim	Approximate Weight for Each Claim within Total Test
		CAT	PT	CAT Items	PT Ratings		
1. Reading	Literary	1	0	6-8	0	12-16	TBD
	Informational	1	0	6-8			
2. Writing	Purpose/Focus/Organization	0	1a	2-3	1	7-10	TBD
	Evidence/Elaboration	0		2-3	1		
	Conventions	0		3-4	1		
3. Speaking/Listening	Listening	2	0	8-10	0	8-10	TBD
4. Research	Research	0	1b	5-6	3	5-6	TBD

Support for Under-Represented Students

- Accessibility is a core principle of the Smarter Balanced development process. The goal is to ensure equity of access for all students and provide valid measures of student achievement.

- *Accessibility and Accommodations Policy Framework* (to be released by June 2013 for public review and comment)

    Will provide guidance on how assessment accessibility needs of English learners and students with disabilities will be met through item design and delivery methods for a digital environment as well as by local staff.

A&A Policy Framework
Draft Conceptual Model
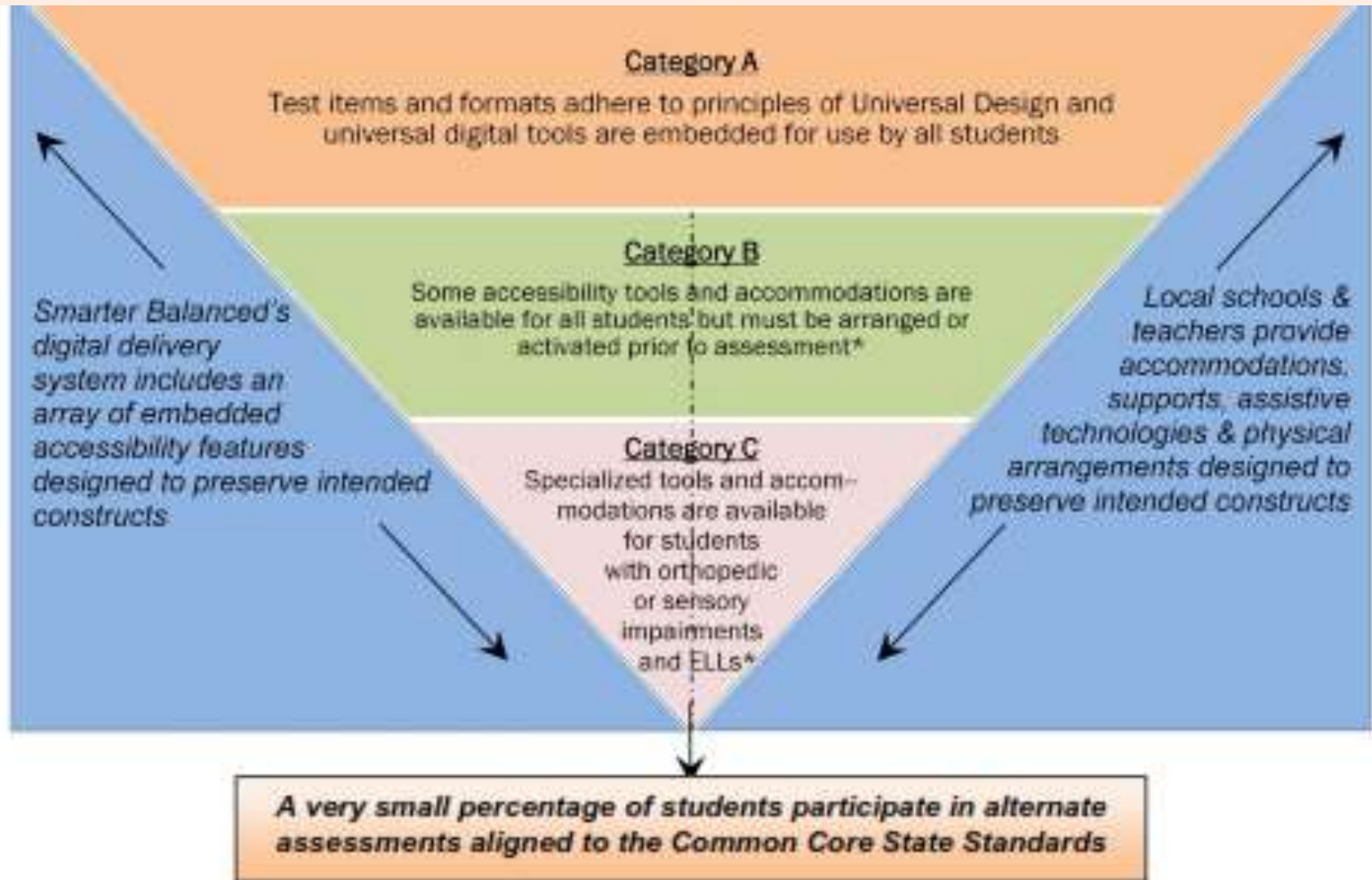
Support for Under-Represented Students

- Resources available on Smarter Balanced Web site at: http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/support-for-under-represented-students/

- Recent releases:
  - *Translation Accommodations Framework for Testing English Language Learners in Mathematics*

  - *Accommodations for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities: A Research-Based Decision Algorithm*

Spring 2013 Pilot Test

For all students:

- Universal digital tools (all items)
  - Pausing; variable font size; highlighting; marking for review; answer eliminator; expandable passages; tab-enter navigation; calculator* (on items that are not testing fluency with math operations)
- Universal digital tools (ELA performance tasks)
  - Bold, italics, underline; indent; cut, copy, paste; spell check; undo/redo

For students identified by LEA:

- Accommodations supports
  - Extended time, frequent breaks, quiet environment, font background color alternatives, print on request

For students identified by Smarter Balanced:

- Research forms (math 3, 7, 11 and ELA 4, 7, 11)
  - Full Spanish translation (math only); online Spanish glossaries (math only); online refreshable Braille; text to speech; online English glossaries

Spring 2013 Pilot Test

- February 20-May 24, 2013

- Grades 3-11 in English-language arts and mathematics

- Computer based

- Approximately 5,000 items to be tested

- No results will be released publicly

Spring 2013 Pilot Test

- Over one million students are scheduled to participate (approximately 360,000 students from California)

- Over 1,400 California schools have confirmed participation.

- Search for selected CA schools by county and district and view participation status on the CDE Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp. Select the "Spring 2013 Pilot Test" hyperlink.

Practice Test

- Formerly called the Volunteer Pilot Test

- Access will begin May 29, 2013

- Will be available to all schools, districts, parents, policymakers, and other stakeholders

- Access will continue until implementation of operational assessments

Practice Test

- Complete test forms will be used
  - One test form for each grade and content area
  - Will follow the test blueprints

- Accommodations
  - Text-to-speech
  - Item-level pop-up Spanish glossaries for construct-irrelevant terms (math only)
  - Braille
  - American Sign Language

Spring 2014 Field Test

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

- Approximately 40,000 items to be tested

- Participation of 5-6 million students expected across member states

- Computer-adaptive component

- Smarter Balanced is exploring options for providing some level of results to participating schools

Digital Library of Formative Assessment Tools and Practices

- An interactive professional development tool to guide teachers in identifying and using the best resources for their needs.

- Will include resources such as:
  - Best practices for classroom instruction across all grade levels
  - Demonstration videos
  - Research-based formative assessment tools and practices
  - Sample summative/interim test items

Digital Library of Formative Assessment Tools and Practices

- **Upcoming opportunity for teacher involvement!** Each Smarter Balanced member state to form a State Network of Educators (SNE) to review proposed resources for inclusion in the digital library.

  – CDE will recruit approximately 150 California educators for the SNE

  – Recruitment expected to begin in May 2013

- To be launched in spring 2014

More Upcoming Opportunities for Teacher Involvement

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Recruitments between April and June 2013

- Pilot Test range finding
- Pilot Test data review
- Field Test item writing and review

CDE will announce participation opportunities through its Smarter Balanced listserv update.

For Further Information

Join the CDE Smarter Balanced listserv by sending a blank e-mail to:
subscribe-sbac@mlist.cde.ca.gov

CDE Transition Office
sbac@cde.ca.gov
916-445-8517

Technology Readiness Coordinator
sbac-itreadiness@cde.ca.gov

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium Web Site
http://www.smarterbalanced.org/

CDE Smarter Balanced Web Page
http://www.cde.ca.gov/sbac/

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