



Smarter Balanced: A Brown's Point Parents' Guide

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What is Smarter Balanced?

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is a comprehensive, mandatory, online assessment for students in grades 3-8 and 11. SBAC assesses math and English language arts using computer adaptive technology (CAT). CAT allows SBAC to respond to individual students based on the responses given, and adjusts the difficulty of questions throughout the assessment. SBAC replaces the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) in all school districts across the state in the 2014-2015 school year.

Why Smarter Balanced?

The Smarter Balanced assessment system was developed based on the new Common Core State Standards (for more about the Common Core, visit <http://www.corestandards.org/what-parents-should-know/>). SBAC is designed to provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of students' progress toward college and career readiness for all students.

What Are the Key Components?

SBAC is composed of interim and summative assessments. This means you can expect your child to take the interim SBAC at least once during the year and the summative SBAC within the last 12 weeks of school.

SBAC asks students to respond to several types of questions including multiple choice, short text (constructed response), and drag-and-drop (select and move objects). There are also performance tasks that incorporate class activities.

What else?

Typing Web (<http://www.typingweb.com/>) and *Type Racer* (<http://play.typeracer.com/>) are typing websites that provide practice for kids working on their keyboarding skills.

Where Can I Learn More?

For more about...

The Common Core:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

<http://commoncore.scholastic.com/parents>

Smarter Balanced:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>

