

# A PARENT GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

There are many ways to measure your child's learning. Your child's teacher uses report card grades, classroom work, teacher observations, and end-of-year statewide test results to get a complete picture of your child's learning.

## Who takes these tests?

All students in grades 3–8 and 11 will take the state tests in English language arts and math. These tests are called the Smarter Balanced summative assessments.



## Why do students take these tests?

The results will identify where your child is doing well or needs more help, so you can better support their learning at home and teachers can better support their learning in the classroom.

## When do students take these tests?

Each school selects its own testing window in the spring. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific dates and times of testing.

## How do students take these tests?

These tests are taken on a computer which allows your child to interact with questions in a variety of ways. For example, in math, your child might be asked to drag and drop things from one place on the screen to another or draw a graph to solve a problem.

## What resources are available?

Your child will have access to resources they need when taking the test, like a calculator in grades 6–8 and 11, a glossary, or a highlighter. These resources help your child better access the test and do not affect the scores in any way. You can talk to your child's teacher about other available resources that may help your child.

## How can I help my child?

- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and that you are there to help them every step of the way.
- Visit the Starting Smarter website at <https://ca.startingsmarter.org> to better understand Student Score Reports, review sample questions, and access resources to support your child's learning.
- Take a practice test with your child at <https://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

For more information about your child's scores, contact your child's teacher and/or the school office.

