Smarter Balanced Assessments

Richland School District

November 2014 Newsletter

All information related to SBAC Assessment can be found in one location using the SBAC Resource Tool available on the RSD SharePoint.

Accommodations

This month's newsletter focuses on student usability, accessibility and accommodations for the upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessments.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium's Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines are intended for school-level personnel and decision-making teams, particularly Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams, as they prepare for and implement the Smarter Balanced assessment. The Guidelines provide information for classroom teachers, English development educators, special education teachers, and related services personnel to use in selecting and administering universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations for those students who ned them. The Guidelines are also intended for assessment staff and administrators who oversee the decisions that are made in instruction and assessment.

Figure 1: Conceptual Model Underlying the Smarter Balanced *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*
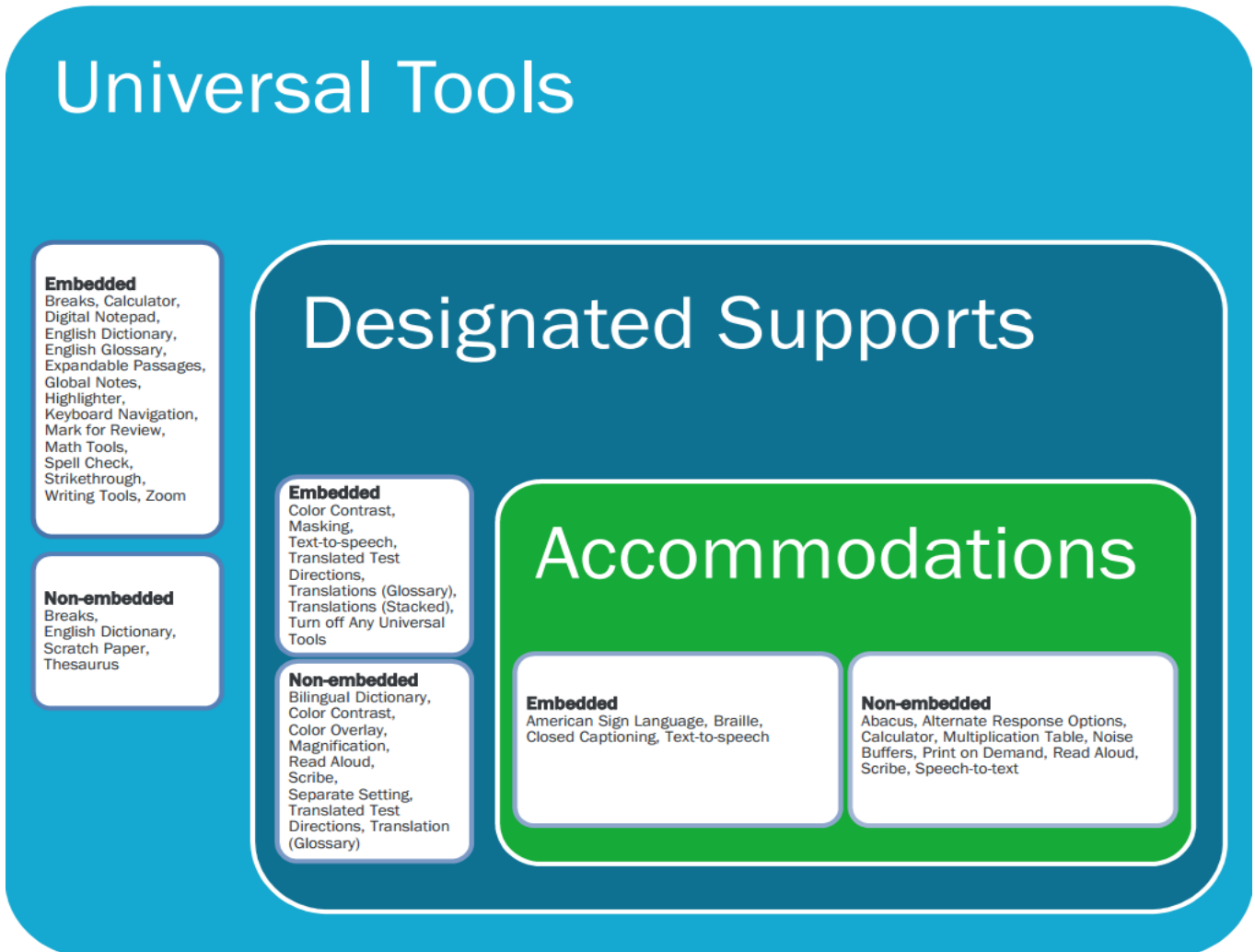
The Conceptual Model (Figure 1) recognizes that all students should be held to the same expectations for instruction in CCSS and have available to them universal accessibility features. It also recognizes that some students may have certain characteristics and access needs that require the use of accommodations for instruction and when they participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

These Guidelines portray several aspects of the Smarter Balanced assessment features – universal tools (available for all students), designated supports (available when indicated by an adult or team), and accommodations (available need is documented in an Individualized Education Program – IEP or 504 plan.

Universal tools are available to all students, including those receiving designated supports and those receiving accommodations. Designated supports are available only to students for whom an adult or team has indicated the need for these accommodations (as well as those students for whom the need is documented). Accommodations are available only to those students with documentation of the need through a formal plan (i.e., IEP). Those students also may use designated supports and universal tools.

It is critical that all staff have a complete understanding on the accommodations available to all students who will be taking the spring SBAC Assessments. Complete information, including answers to the questions below can be found by accessing the Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines.

What are universal tools?
What are designated supports?
Who makes decisions about designated supports?
What are accommodations?
Who makes decisions about accommodations?
What are embedded and non-embedded universal tools, supports and accommodations?

The current 2014–15 testing calendar is provided below (subject to change):

Smarter Balanced 2015 Testing Windows	
Grade 3 ELA	March 10 to April 23 — online March 10 to April 15 — paper/pencil*
Grade 3 Math	*Must be administered within the last 12 weeks, of school year, but not before March 10.* March 10 to June 9 — online March 10 to May 20 — paper/pencil*
Grades 4–8 ELA and Math	*Must be administered within the last 12 weeks, of school year, but not before March 10.* March 10 to June 9 — online March 10 to May 20 — paper/pencil*
Grade 11 ELA and Math	*Must be administered within the last 7 weeks, of school year, but not before April 6.* April 6 to June 9 — online April 6 to May 30 — paper/pencil*
	Must be documented in IEP.
Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) 2015 Testing Windows	
Grades 5 and 8 Science	April 20 to June 5 — online April 20 to May 19 — paper/pencil*
	Must be documented in IEP.
High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) 2015 Testing Window	

Grades 11 and 12 Retake
  o Reading
  o Writing
	March 17
	March 18–19

Grade 10 ELA exit exam	**Paper/Pencil** May 19-21 (all of RSD) OR **Online** (*Must be administered during the last 12 weeks of school, but not before March 10*) March 9 to June 15
Math EOC exit exams	May 11 to June 12
Biology EOC Off Grade Level testing (formerly DAPE)	May 11 to June 12 Must be administered in the last 12 weeks of school, but not before March 10. March 10-June 9