

[Smarter Balanced Assessments](#)

Richland School District

September 2014 Newsletter

Interim Assessments

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The Smarter Balanced interim assessments allow teachers to check student progress throughout the year, giving them actionable information to inform instruction and help students meet the challenge of college- and career-ready standards.

The [interim assessments](#) are one of the three major components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System—along with the end-of-year summative assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics and a Digital Library of formative assessment tools and practices that supports classroom instruction.

Interim Assessment Timeline: Mid-Year

Interim Assessments: Interim assessments provide educators with actionable information about student progress throughout the year, helping teachers, parents, and students understand whether students are on track for success. The interim assessments will be administered at locally determined intervals.

Teachers can use the interim assessments throughout the year to gauge student progress toward mastery of the skills measured by the summative assessment and to assess targeted concepts at strategic points during the school year.

Key Features

- Grades 3-8 and high school are supported. At the high school level, the assessments are consistent with the grade 11 summative design and may be administered in grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12.
- There are two options for the interim assessments:
 - **The Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA)** will mirror the summative assessment, using the same design and requiring the same administration time. The ICA will feature a computer adaptive component and performance tasks. In addition, the ICA will report the same information as the summative assessment: overall composite scale score, achievement levels, and claim-level information. Teachers may administer the ICA mid-year to benchmark performance for a class, or may give the assessment to new students to better understand their skills and knowledge with regard to the summative assessment.
 - **Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB)** will focus on a smaller set of skills and are designed to provide more targeted information about student performance for teachers. Results will be reported in a manner consistent with the level of detail on the summative assessment. Teachers may use an IAB at the end of a unit of instruction to check students' understanding, or a district could choose to administer an IAB to all schools.
- Test questions are not secure, and there are no restrictions on the number of times that teachers or students may access assessments.
- Items were developed under the same conditions, protocols, and review procedures as those used in the summative assessments.
- Most questions can be scored by the Smarter Balanced Test Delivery Engine. Constructed-response items and performance tasks will be scored by teachers locally.

The 2014–15 testing calendar is provided below:

Smarter Balanced 2015 Testing Windows	
Grade 3 ELA	March 9 to April 23 – online March 9 to April 15 – paper/pencil*
Grade 3 Math	March 9 to May 29 – online March 9 to May 20 – paper/pencil*
Grades 4–8 ELA and Math	March 9 to May 29 – online March 9 to May 20 – paper/pencil*
Grade 11 ELA and Math	April 6 to May 29 – online April 6 to May 20 – paper/pencil*
*See cost estimates below.	
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*
High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) 2015 Testing Window	
Grades 11 and 12 Retake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading ○ Writing 	March 17 March 18–19
Grade 10 ELA exit exam	May 12–13
Math EOC exit exams	May 11 to June 12
Biology EOC	May 11 to June 12