

Smarter Balanced



REASONS WHY WASHINGTON MADE THE SWITCH TO NEW ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & MATH

Reason
#1

The right standards

Washington's state learning standards in English language arts and math (*Common Core*) are designed to prepare students for career, college, and life.

Reason
#6

Less expensive

Compared to our most recent years of testing, we're saving about \$6 million per year by switching to the Smarter Balanced system.

Reason
#2

Teacher resources

Teachers can access resources in the Digital Library and use periodic, or interim, assessments to help track and support student progress throughout the year.

Reason
#7

Teacher involvement

From developing test items, to setting achievement levels, to vetting Digital Library materials, Washington teachers have been involved every step of the way.

Reason
#3

Expertise and collaboration

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium takes advantage of each member state's technical, practical, and political expertise to ensure a representative blend of ideas.

Reason
#8

Higher expectations

Proficiency rates will be lower at first than what we're used to. That doesn't mean students have "failed." As students adjust to the college- and career-ready standards, results will improve.

Reason
#4

Quicker results

Individual scores are available to schools and districts within a few weeks of students completing year-end, or summative, tests.

Reason
#9

Computer adaptive

These tests present an individually tailored set of questions to each student and can quickly identify which skills and concepts students have mastered.

Reason
#5

More accessible

These tests are designed to accommodate all students, including those with disabilities and English language learners.

Reason
#10

Ties to higher education

Most of Washington's universities, colleges, and community colleges will use high school students' Smarter Balanced scores for course-level placement.