

Meeting the Needs of All Students

Assessments help teachers and parents know if students are on the path to success. The Smarter Balanced assessment system provides accurate measures of achievement and growth while challenging students to think critically and solve real-world problems. A core principle of the Smarter Balanced system is accessibility for all students.

The Smarter Balanced tests are designed so that all students—including students who are learning English or have special needs—can participate in the tests and demonstrate what they know and can do. As a result, our end-of-year test include accessibility resources that address visual, auditory, and physical access barriers—allowing virtually all students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

Using the principles of universal design, these accessibility resources include Braille, stacked Spanish translations, videos in American Sign Language, glossaries provided in 10 languages and several dialects, as well as translated test directions in 19 languages. Each of these accessibility resources was built with students in mind and would be cost prohibitive for any state to create on its own.

What are Accessibility Resources?

- ✓ **A set of universal tools**—such as a digital notepad and scratch paper—are available to all students.
- ✓ **Designated supports**—like a translated pop-up glossary—are available to students for whom a need has been identified by school personnel familiar with each student’s needs and testing resources.
- ✓ **Accommodations** are available to students with a documented need noted in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan. Accommodations include Braille and closed captioning, among others.
- ✓ **The Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile (ISAAP)** tool and training module support educators in selecting accessibility resources that match student access needs.

Developed with Experts

Smarter Balanced worked with educators, students, and experts in the field to design and test the assessment system. We work with advisory panels on English language learners and students with disabilities to ensure that the assessments are developed using principles of Universal Design and research-based best practices.

“ Smarter Balanced is seen as being the most forward-thinking in their list of accommodations and features for accessibility.

—Sheila Schultz, *Assessment Researcher, Human Resources Research Organization*
from “[Smarter Balanced passes the test, researchers say](#)”

Learn More

For more information, visit www.SmarterBalanced.org/accessibility/.

You can also try out the test software and answer sample questions on the **Practice Test**: www.SmarterBalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/.