Core Understanding II

A Communication Toolkit for Connecting the SUHSD Community to Common Core and SBAC

Content adapted from work done by the San Mateo County Office of Education

This week's essential question: ***"What are Smarter Balanced assessments?"***

The Smarter Balanced assessments are part of a new, broader statewide assessment system replacing STAR tests that students have taken in the past. These new end-of-year exams are designed around Common Core standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and are intended to measure real-world skills and readiness for college and career. Instead of multiple-choice, paper-based tests, Smarter Balanced is computer-based and not only measures mastery of content, but also assesses students' writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

FOR PARENTS

Pete Manzo, President and CEO of United Ways of California, shares why businesses across Silicon Valley should consider the Common Core State Standards an important workforce development priority.

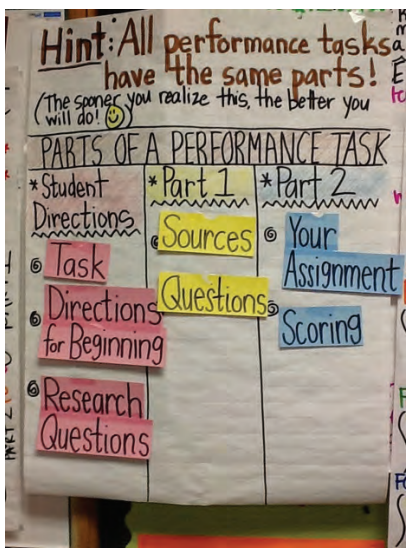
Tweet: Great op-ed by @pmanzo, United Ways CA CEO, arguing that Common Core is a fix for CA's workforce woes, via @SVbizjournal http://bit.ly/1CSRjY1

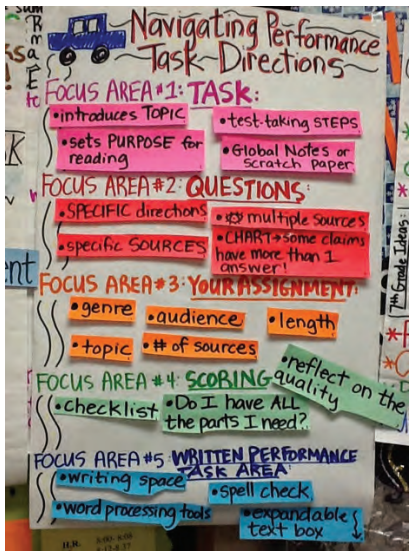
ARTICLE

FOR TEACHERS

Looking for a way to introduce students to the Smarter Balanced assessments? In this blog post, one classroom teacher shares her experience preparing students for what the assessments will look like, how they will be organized, and how to have a successful experience.

BLOG POST





SMCOE has created a "Common Ground" Pinterest board (http://bit.ly/1CSLycQ) that features all resources included in each edition.

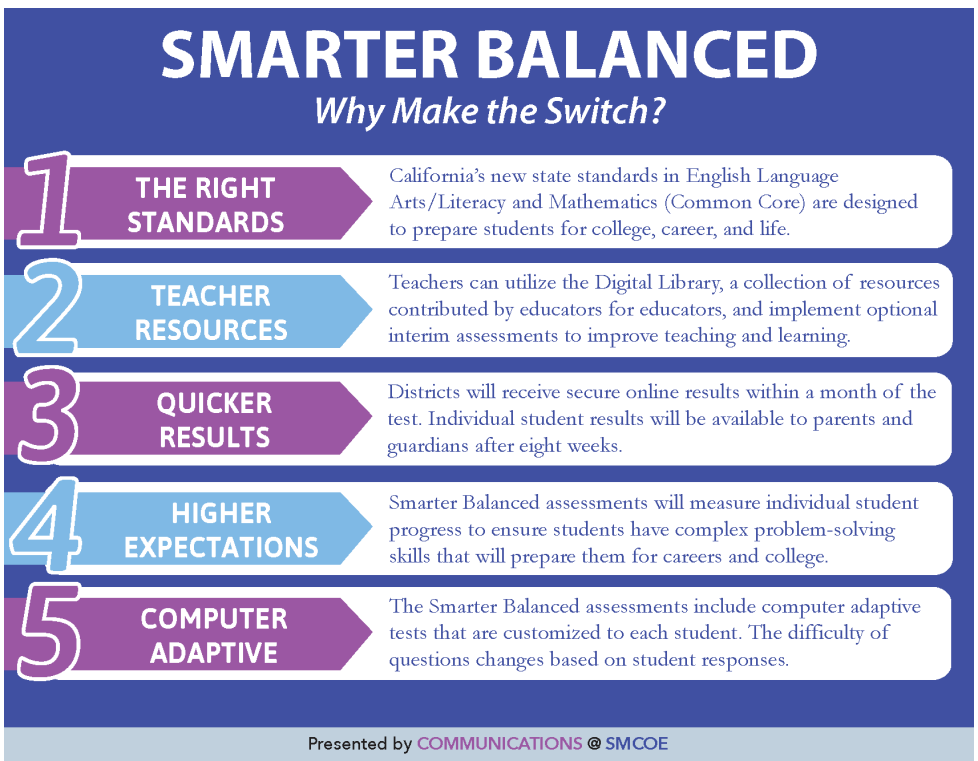
FOR CURRENT & FUTURE STUDENTS

These short videos from the California Department of Education introduce students to the Smarter Balanced assessments and help them understand the purpose of these assessments. Kids on Campus is geared towards elementary and middle school students, and Teens on Campus is geared towards high school students.

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE | HIGH

FUN FACTS

Why did California make the switch to the Smarter Balanced assessments? Share these five reasons with stakeholders.

Post: SBAC is replacing California's old standardized tests, but do you know why? Take a look at this info-graphic to learn more about the Smarter Balanced assessments and how they benefiting students.

ENGLISH | SPANISH