

SBAC Informational Workshop

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Overview

- What this state test means for your child
- What your child can expect
- Ways to support your child
- How to interpret test results
- Additional resources for families



SBAC= Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

What are the SBAC tests?

Smarter Balanced assessments are computer adaptive tests designed to measure students knowledge and abilities with the common core standards.



Why Test?

- Required by the CSDE
- Aiming for 95%+ participation rate
- Data from the 21-22 administration allows us to restart the academic growth measure with the 22-23 school year



SBAC Tests



Students in Grades 3–8 take Smarter Balanced English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics tests.

1. Computer Adaptive Test

- Short-answer, multiple-choice questions, and interactive test items
- Questions adjust to each student's ability

1. Performance Task (*Math only)

- Longer multi-step questions, including essays
- Students solve real-world problems



What Do the English Language Arts Tests Measure?

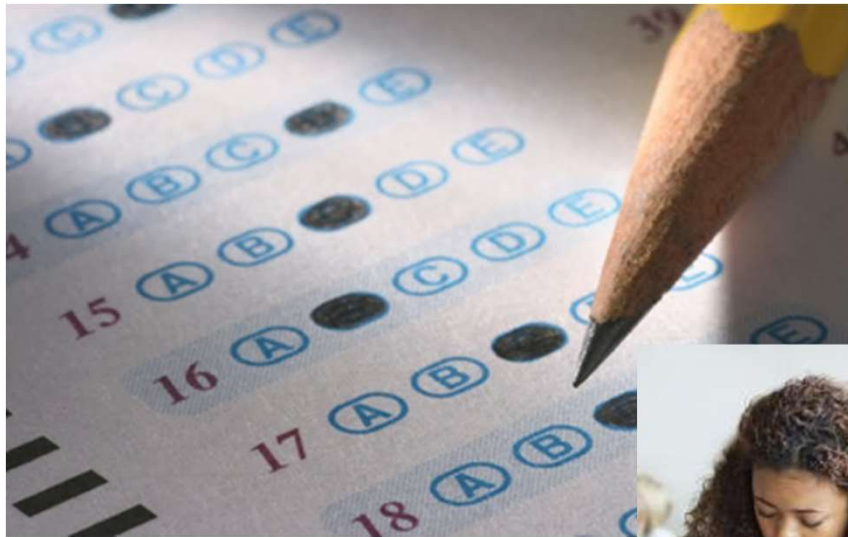
- Can students **read closely** to understand different types of texts?
- Can students **write effectively** citing evidence from the text in their responses?
- Can students **listen effectively** for different purposes?
- Can students use **research skills** to investigate topics, and analyze, integrate, and present information?



What Do the Mathematics Tests Measure?

- Can students explain and use math **concepts** to solve problems?
 - Can students solve math problems using their knowledge of concepts and **problem solving** strategies?
 - Can students **explain, justify, illustrate, or defend** their reasoning about a solution to a problem and be able to look at other solutions to do the same?
 - Can students solve problems by using math **models** to represent a situation and interpret information from the problem to solve the problem?
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Does This Look Familiar?



What's Different About These Tests?

1. The new tests go beyond a paper-and-pencil test.
 2. Computer-Based Tests have:
 - **Interactive test items:** i.e., matching, complete a table with missing information, click and drag
 - **Accessibility features and supports:** built-in accommodations aligned to the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - **Computer Adaptive Test:** Questions adjust to each student's ability
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Example from an old CMT Grade 5 Math test

Which equation is true?

$$\begin{array}{r} 2\frac{1}{6} \\ + 3\frac{4}{6} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

A. $6\frac{5}{6}$

B. $5\frac{5}{6}$

C. $5\frac{5}{12}$

D. $1\frac{1}{2}$

Example from SBAC Grade 5 Math

17

Drag one number into each box to create a fraction that correctly completes each statement.

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Delete

$$4 \times \frac{\square}{\square} < 4$$

$$4 \times \frac{\square}{\square} = 4$$

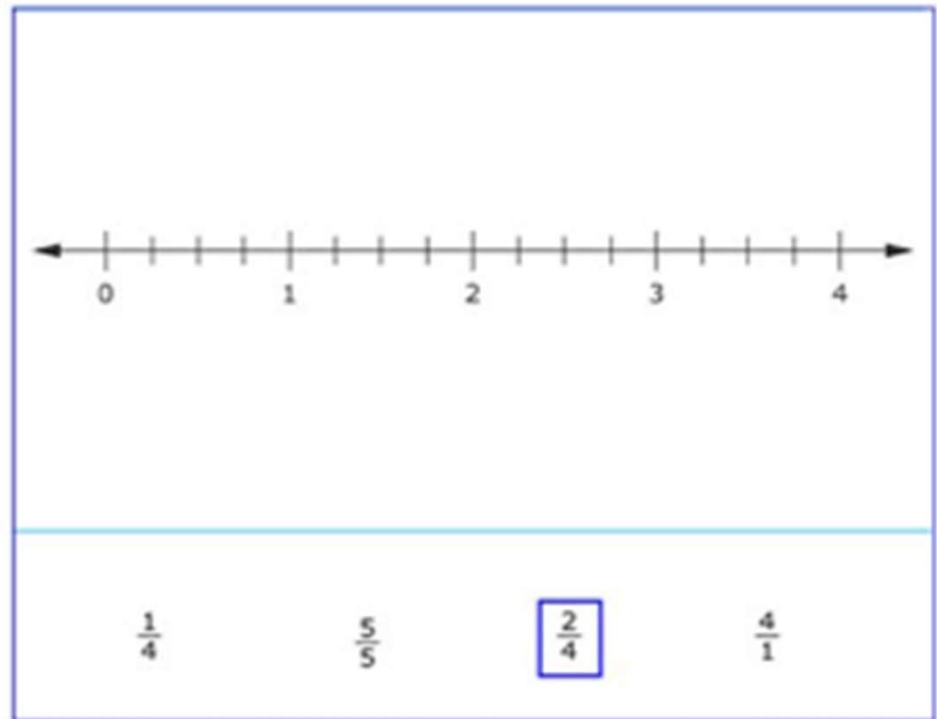
$$4 \times \frac{\square}{\square} > 4$$

Sample Grade 3 Math Test Item

15



Drag each fraction to the correct location on the number line.



Sample Grade 3 ELA Test Items

Which sentence from the passage supports the idea that the Coleman brothers have experience with making maple syrup?

- Ⓐ “The Coleman brothers—Nelson, Ralph, and Harold—step out their front door in Vermont.”
 - Ⓑ “As they pass 75-year-old sugar-maple trees, sap drips from holes in the trees into metal buckets.”
 - Ⓒ “Every spring, the Colemans tap holes into sugar-maple trees, then hang a bucket under each hole to catch the sap.”
 - Ⓓ “They don’t worry too much about why the sap is running in their trees this morning.”
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Sample Grade 3 ELA Test Items

What is the **most likely** reason the author included the legend in the passage? Pick **two** choices.

- ☐ to make the idea of tasting sap seem fun
 - ☐ to provide details about the Iroquois way of life
 - ☐ to explain how people discovered how to make syrup
 - ☐ to show sap has been used to make syrup for many years
 - ☐ to provide information that shows that sap is a good sweetener for food
 - ☐ to show how the Iroquois used to make syrup and how syrup is made today
-



Built-in Supports and Accommodations

- Breaks navigation
 - Calculator
 - Digital notepad
 - English dictionary
 - English glossary
 - Expandable passages
 - Global notes
 - Highlighter
 - Keyboard
 - Mark for review
 - Spell check
 - Strikethrough
 - Writing tools
 - Zoom
 - Color contrast
 - Masking
 - Text-to-Speech
 - Translated directions
 - Stacked translations
 - ASL
 - Braille
 - Closed captions
 - Text-to-speech
-

When will the tests be administered?

Grade	English/Language Arts	Math
5	NGSS : April 27 & 28 LA: May 2 & 3	May 4 to May 8
4	May 9 & May 10	May 11 to May 15
3	May 16 & May 17	May 19 to May 23

How Long Will the Tests Take?

SBAC tests are untimed. Students can take as much time as they need to finish. This allows students to think critically, explore, read carefully, and write a well-thought response.



Table 3. Estimated Testing Times for Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

Content Area	Grades	Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) Hours : Minutes	Performance Task (PT) Hours : Minutes	Total Time Hours : Minutes
English Language Arts	3–5	1:30	—	1:30
	6–8	1:30	—	1:30
Mathematics	3–5	1:30	1:00	2:30
	6–8	2:00	1:00	3:00
Both English Language Arts and Mathematics	3–5	3:00	1:00	4:00
	6–8	3:30	1:00	4:30

These estimates do not account for any time needed to start computers, load secure browsers, and log in students, and they do not account for breaks. Test Examiners should work with Test Coordinators to determine precise testing schedules.

Test Security

Breaches of test security include, but are not limited to:

- Use of digital devices (i.e. apple watches, mobile phones etc.)
- Sharing of information on social media

All students must use district devices for testing.



How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- Have your child read a variety of materials at home including **fiction** and **informational (non-fiction)** texts.
- Involve learning in everyday activities such as cooking or shopping. Ask children to express opinions and back their views.
- Review a practice test with your child:

<https://practice.smarterbalanced.org/student/>

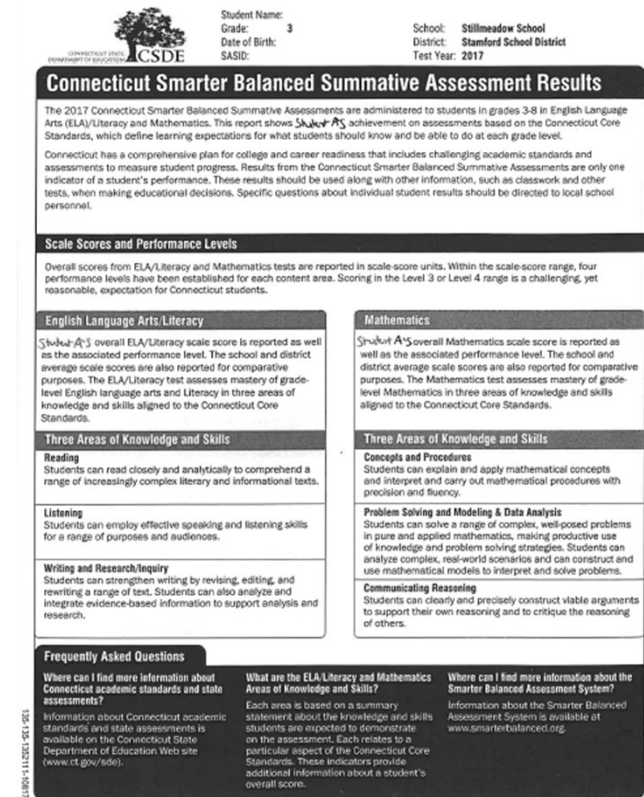
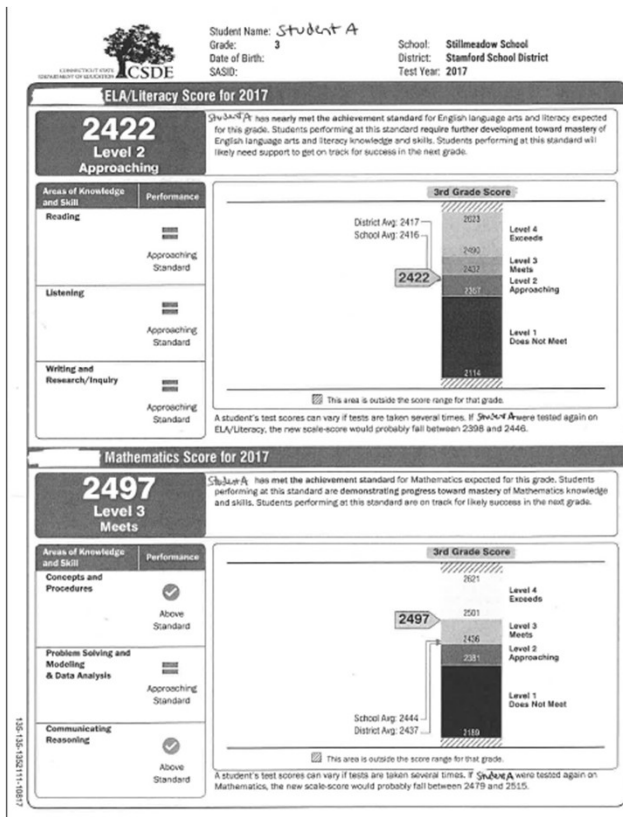


How Can I Help My Child Right Before the Tests?

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast.
- Encourage your child to do his/her best.
- Assure your child that he/she will have enough time to finish.



How Do I Interpret the Test Results?



How Will Scores Be Used To Help Your Child?

- Test results will allow parents, teachers, and students to know whether students are on track each year.
 - Results provide an annual snapshot of student achievement that should be used along with other information such as class work and other tests when making educational decisions.
 - Results are not a sole measure of student achievement, program evaluation, or school, district, and state accountability systems.
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Where Can I Learn More Information?

Most of the training resources for students and families can be found on the TIDE website.

<https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/resources/students-families>

- PTA Parent Guides to Student Success
[Parents' Guides to Student Success - Family Resources | National PTA](#)
- Smarter Balanced Website, family page
[SBAC Parent Page](#)
- [Belearninghero.org](#)
- Connecticut State Department of Education, CT Core Standards website, family page
[CT Core Standards](#)
- Connecticut State Department of Education, Student Assessment
[Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations RBHAOs](#)



Any questions?



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