

Defining Summative Assessment

Summative assessments are administered after learning has occurred to determine the amount of knowledge and skills a student has acquired. Stiggins, Arter, Chappuis, and Chappuis (2006) consider summative assessments to be “assessments of learning” and contrast them to formative assessments which are “assessments for learning.” (Marianne Perie, University of Kansas)

Summative assessments reflect the following:

- Technical soundness, high-quality items, blueprint adherence
- Alignment with standards and instruction
- Results require extended time, easily interpreted
- On track to proficiency status toward college and career readiness
- Long cycle frequency—occurs one time per year
- Mandatory at state level—used for accountability
- Scale—statewide
- Information provided for individual and group progress

Smarter Summative Assessment Features

- The summative assessment is administered during the last 12 weeks of the school year. The summative assessment consists of two parts: a computer adaptive test and performance tasks that will be taken on a computer but will not be computer adaptive. The summative assessment will:
 - Accurately describe both student achievement and growth of student learning as part of program evaluation and school, district, and state accountability systems;
 - Provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of students’ progress toward and attainment of the knowledge and skills required to be college and career ready; and
 - Capitalize on the strengths of computer adaptive testing—efficient and precise measurement across the full range of achievement and quick turnaround of results (www.smarterbalanced.org).

Summative Assessment Purposes and Uses

Summative assessment takes place after learning has occurred and provides an academic checkup to assess student progress toward achieving proficiency of the Common Core State Standards. Results are used primarily at the state and district level. The Smarter assessments for English/language arts and mathematics assess the knowledge and skills related to these content areas. Smarter summative assessments occur once at the end of the school year and include

- Machine-scorable items
- Multiple-choice or technology-enhanced items
- Some short-constructed response items
- Extended constructed-response item
- Performance tasks