

Smarter Balanced has some exciting resources for educators that will support teaching and learning and are aligned to the content standards for all grade levels. Read on for more details.

TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

Coming Soon!

Tools for Teachers is an easy-to-use web application featuring lessons and activities designed to move students toward college and career readiness. Created with the assistance of hundreds of educators, Tools for Teachers helps educators reflect on where students are in their knowledge and take action on next steps to meet learning goal. Training will be available and shared. Some Features of Tools for Teachers include:

- Responsive, accessible instructional resources aligned to learning standards
- Interactive Connections Playlists that link interim assessments (learning checks) to differentiated instructional resources
- Formative assessment strategies embedded in every instructional resource
- Embedded accessibility strategies for use in the classroom

Important Dates:

June 16th - Preview Launch of Tools for Teachers (limited resources available)

September 2020 – Grand Opening of Tools for Teachers

Important Link:

<https://www.smarterbalanced.org/tools-for-teachers/>

NOTE: Currently, this URL redirects to the Smarter Balanced preview page. Once the site launches, the URL will go directly to Tools for Teachers.

REMOTE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Planning and Designing

Smarter Balanced assessment resources are designed to support teaching and learning in flexible ways. Teachers are encouraged to use the interim assessments and formative resources as tools to plan their instruction and determine how to help their students learn more.

What does the new Smarter Balanced [Remote Teaching and Learning Website](#) provide educators?

- Suggestions regarding how to use Smarter Balanced resources while teaching remotely.
- Access to high-quality, accessible, and flexible resources to support their students outside of the classroom
- Includes questions and answers, do's and don'ts, videos, and planning resources.
- Interim assessments can be used to elicit information about what students know and this information can be used to inform instruction.

Depending on whether educators are teaching asynchronously or synchronously, Smarter Balanced resources can be used in different ways. The [Remote Teaching and Learning Website](#) explains how to use Smarter Balanced resources during remote teaching.

Important Link:

<https://remote.smartertoolsforteachers.org/>

SAMPLE ITEMS

Newly Released Questions Can Help Support Instruction

The Smarter Balanced [Sample Items Website](#) now includes 104 newly released test questions that previously appeared on the year-end (summative) math and English language arts tests in grades 3-8 and high school. Educators can use the sample test questions to better understand how Smarter Balanced measures college and career ready content and what students need to know and do.

The newly released questions add to the nearly 500 questions that already appear on the Sample Items Website. The questions feature the full suite of accessibility resources, including translations and an illustration glossary in math to support English language learners.

Another exciting addition to the Sample Items Website is student writing samples for performance tasks. The writing samples include explanations to help teachers better understand how the papers were scored. The Sample Items Website will also support printing of the released test questions as well as additional enhancements.

Each test question is rigorously analyzed by experts before appearing on an actual test. The questions that do not make the cut are not added to the bank of questions.

Important Links:

- <http://portal.smarterbalanced.org/wp-content/uploads/Sample-Items.pdf>
- <https://media.thesocialpresskit.com/smarter-balanced-free/SBItemWriting1080i.mp4>
- <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/samples/>

SMARTER CONTENT EXPLORER

Launching Now!

Smarter Content Explorer is now available! This easy-to-navigate Website helps teachers interpret student results by understanding the claims, targets, and standards that are being assessed. The new website includes information about what knowledge and skills are essential for college and career readiness. Teachers can use it to support their instruction, plan activities, and understand how standards relate to Smarter Balanced claims and targets. Additionally, the Smarter Content Explorer provides access to the full breadth of test design and development information, including summative and interim test blueprints that describe the content of the English language arts/literacy and math tests. Educators can access information about how test questions are structured and scored and download accessibility guidelines.

Most importantly, it is easy to use, packed with information like assessment blueprints, scoring rubrics, and accessibility guidelines. It clearly maps out how test items connect to academic standards!

Important Links:

- <https://contentexplorer.smarterbalanced.org/>
- <https://media.thesocialpresskit.com/smarter-balanced-free/smartercontentexplorer.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

Katia.Foret@doe.k12.de.us

or

Gina.Voges@laurel.k12.de.us