

Smarter Balanced

REASONS WHY WASHINGTON IS MAKING THE SWITCH



Reason
#1

The right standards

Washington's new state learning standards in English language arts and math (Common Core) are designed to prepare students for career, college, and life.

Reason
#6

Less expensive

Compared to our most recent years of testing, we're saving about \$6 million per year by switching to the Smarter Balanced system.

Reason
#2

Teacher resources

Teachers can access educator-approved materials in the Digital Library and use optional interim assessments to help track and support student progress throughout the year.

Reason
#7

Teacher involvement

From developing test items, to setting achievement levels, to vetting Digital Library materials, Washington teachers have been involved every step of the way.

Reason
#3

Expertise and collaboration

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium took advantage of each member state's technical, practical, and political expertise to ensure a blend of everyone.

Reason
#8

Higher expectations

Proficiency rates will be lower at first than what we're used to. That doesn't mean students have "failed." As students adjust to the college- and career-ready standards, results will improve.

Reason
#4

Quicker results

Individual scores will be available within three weeks of a student completing the summative tests.

Reason
#9

Computer adaptive

These tests present an individually tailored set of questions to each student and can quickly identify which skills students have mastered.

Reason
#5

More accessible

These tests are designed with three levels of support to accommodate all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Reason
#10

Connection to higher ed

Washington's public universities, colleges, and community colleges will use a student's Smarter Balanced scores for course-level placement.