
From: CalTAC <CalTAC@info.ets.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:57 AM
To:
Subject: CAASPP: Information about the 2018-19 Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments



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Dear LEA CAASPP Coordinator:

With the last half of the school year upon us, many schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) are scheduled to administer CAASPP assessments, and some have already started. I want to take this opportunity to provide updates about two of the CAASPP assessments, the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.

In 2012, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium adopted a preliminary blueprint that has been in use through the 2017–18 administration. Smarter Balanced reviews the test questions and their statistics annually to improve the assessments to cover the full range of Common Core State Standards and provide the same level of reporting detail while minimizing testing time. To that end, I would like to inform LEAs that the test blueprints for the summative assessments were enhanced and implemented for the 2018–19 administration.

What Enhancements Were Implemented?

- **English language arts/literacy**
 - **Reading** (Claim 1): The short-answer computer-adaptive test (CAT) Reading items have been removed from the blueprint for grades 3, 4, and 5. Total CAT items for Reading at these grades, as well as all other grades, remains the same.
 - **Writing** (Claim 2): Brief write CAT items have been removed from the blueprint for grades 3, 4, and 5. The total of CAT items for the Writing claim is reduced from 10 to 6 items at all grades. Additional evidence for the Writing claim continues to come from the trait scores on the Performance Task portion of the ELA/literacy assessment (a possible total of 6 points).
 - **Listening** (Claim 3): No changes.
 - **Research** (Claim 4): Research items associated with the Performance Task will be reduced from 3 to 1 at all grades. To compensate for the reduction of items in the PT, two additional machine-scored items have been added to the CAT portion of the test at each grade bringing the

total of CAT items for Research to 8 items in the CAT portion of the test plus the 1 item in the PT.

- **Mathematics**

- A small number of short-answer items have been removed from the CAT pool for grades 6-8 and high school. Short-answer items have been retained in the performance task.
- Smarter Balanced will continue with the embedded field test of performance tasks. Students who are assigned an embedded field test performance task will receive a corresponding CAT that supports reporting of claim results while maintaining the content measured by the tests.
- These changes do not impact the calculation of scale scores or the comparison of scores from year to year.
- Additional information about the 2018–19 test blueprints can be found on the [Smarter Balanced Development and Design](#) web page.

What Does This Mean for Your Students?

- The enhancements to the test blueprints are designed to improve the testing experience while minimizing testing time. The majority of students may not notice any of these changes when they are testing.
- As in previous years, students who are assigned an embedded field test performance task will be assigned a CAT with additional items that will allow for the reporting of claim results. These changes do not impact the calculation of scale scores or the comparison of scores from year to year.

What Does This Mean for Test Administrators?

- Test administrators should continue with the planned administration schedule and processes at their sites. The enhanced test blueprints were designed to minimize impact to the total testing times.

Thank you for your continued support of CAASPP and for your feedback as we continue to make enhancements that improve the program. Questions regarding the updates to the 2018–19 Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment CAT blueprints should be directed to the California Technical Assistance Center by phone at 800-955-2954 or by email at caltac@ets.org.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne J. Arcilla
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CAASPP and ELPAC Programs
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