

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Overview of Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC)

The SBAC assessment system is a valid, fair, and reliable approach to student assessment that provides educators, students and parents meaningful results with actionable data to help students succeed. The assessment system is aligned to [Nevada Academic Content Standards](#) and consists of the following three components: Digital Library, Interim Assessments and Summative Assessments.

Questions and Answers

Who takes the SBAC Summative Assessment?

All students in grades 3 through 8 take the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.

What content areas are assessed?

Students are assessed in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

When is the SBAC Summative Assessment given?

SBAC assessments are given during the spring each year. Please speak with your student's school for more detailed information regarding testing dates.

What is the mode of testing?

The SBAC Summative Assessments consist of two parts: a computer adaptive test (CAT) and a performance task. The CAT adjusts the difficulty of questions throughout the assessment based on the student's response in order to identify a student's threshold of knowledge. If a student answers a question correctly, the next question will be more challenging; if a student answers incorrectly, the next question will be less challenging.

What is the approximate testing time?

Each SBAC Assessment has an approximate testing time of four hours. If students complete both the English Language Arts/Literacy and the Mathematics Exam in the same testing period the combined testing time would be approximately 7 hours.

What accessibility resources are available?

- A set of universal tools—such as a digital notepad, scratch paper and accessible calculators—are available to all students.
- Designated supports—like a translated glossary—are available to students for whom a need has been identified by school personnel familiar with each student's needs.
- Accommodations are available to students with a documented need noted in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan. Accommodations include Braille and closed captioning, among others.
- The Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile (ISAAP) tool and training module support educators in selecting accessibility resources that match student access needs.

How are scores reported?

Student results will be sent home in the mail. Results are reported in two ways: scale scores and achievement levels. A scale score is a student’s overall numerical score on the assessment. Based on their scale scores, students fall into one of four categories of performance called achievement levels.

Example of a Nevada Interpretive Score Report

Achievement Levels				
Grade X	Level 1: Minimal Understanding	Level 2: Partial Understanding	Level 3: Proficient	Level 4: Advanced
English Language Arts/ Literacy				✓
Mathematics			✓	

Achievement Level Descriptors

Level 1 – The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Level 2 – The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Level 3 – The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Level 4 – The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrates advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

What are the Interim Assessments?

The Interim Assessments are optional and flexible tests that can be given throughout the year to help teachers monitor student progress. This is a resource made available to all State of Nevada schools.

Where can I find more information?

- [SBAC Assessment Information](#)
 - SBAC provides a range of support materials including practice assessments and scoring guides on their website.
- [Nevada Department of Education SBAC webpage](#)

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