



As Connecticut implements the operational Smarter Balanced assessments this spring, it is only natural that much of the focus has been on the summative assessment component. But, Smarter Balanced is more than just a year-end test, another essential component of a balanced assessment system is the formative assessment process and the Digital Library. A balanced assessment system – which includes the *formative assessment process* and provides tools to improve teaching and learning.

The [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources for all content areas developed by educators for educators. Currently there are more than 2,600 resources posted in the Digital Library. More than 1,300 educators from 22 states (64 from Connecticut) with diverse areas of expertise have been populating the Digital Library. These resources are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to support teaching and learning. Resources include lesson plans, units, rubrics, instructional strategies, videos of educators in action, and professional learning materials. The Digital Library also includes interactive modules to interpret data and reports from the Smarter Balanced interim and summative assessments. All resources are vetted by educators using a Quality Criteria before being posted in the Digital Library.

The Digital Library uses state-of-the-art tagging, filtering, and search features to locate, view, download, and rate resources. Users just need to click on one of thousands of resources at any grade level and any content area to read, and then download it for immediate use! Additionally, educators can pose questions and share expertise through online forums with other educators across the country.

[Information](#) about the Digital Library is located on the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site. Download the [Digital Library Factsheet](#) which outlines the innovative design features and collaboration features. Access the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) to view resources that support teaching and learning. For access information, contact your District Test Coordinator.

### **Teaching Channel features the Smarter Balanced Digital Library**

“[Formative Assessment Practices to Support Student Learning](#)” includes links to videos featuring two Connecticut teachers demonstrating each attribute of the Formative Assessment Process.