Information/Resources to Help Increase Understanding of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System

Information	Description	Individual or Group?		Where is it available?			
		I	G	CAI	ISR	E-P	E-S
End of Year Summative Assessment (*assessment required per federal and state laws*)							
Overall Vertical Scale Score (VSS)	The VSS is the most precise measure of achievement. Use it to evaluate student growth relative to target, rough cohort growth, trend analyses, and group differences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Overall Achievement Level	This is a broad approximation of student achievement. Use it as a starting point for discussion but be cautious when comparing students/groups based only on this measure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Claim Results	Three sub-scores each in ELA and Math are available. Use the Claim Category at the student level, and average scores at the group level to identify relative strengths/weaknesses and compare differences.	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Target Category	This is the finest grain results from the summative. Targets align directly to one or more Connecticut Core Standards. Use the category rating to determine target-level strengths and weaknesses for a group.		✓	✓			
Target Trend	This draft CSDE analysis provides trends in target performance in mathematics for the state and all districts disaggregated by grade and rough cohort. Use it to evaluate curricula and instructional foci.		✓				
Performance Index (DPI/SPI)	DPI/SPI represents average performance in a subject across all tests (including Smarter Balanced). This is the best measure of group-level achievement. Use it to for high-level trends, gaps, comparisons, etc.		✓			✓	
Student Growth Target	This is the amount of vertical scale score points a student is expected to grow in a year per Connecticut's Smarter Balanced Growth Model. Use it with students and teachers as a goal for motivation/planning.	✓					✓
Growth Rate	This is the percentage of **students** who met their respective growth targets. Use it to identify individual students who met their targets, and those who did not meet their targets.	✓	✓			✓	✓
Average Percent of Target Achieved	This is the percentage of **target** met by students on average. Use it for trend analysis, comparisons, etc. For students who did not meet their target, use it to identify how close they were to their target.	✓	✓			✓	✓
Interim Assessments (*optional non-standardized tests with aligned content to inform instruction*)							
Category Rating	This category rating tells whether the student performed above/at or near/below standard on the interim. Use it to evaluate student performance and compare students/groups across interims.	✓	✓	✓			
Item Analysis	Using the Centralized Reporting System, see how students performed on individual items including percent correct, best 5, and worst 5. See the item, rubric, and resources. Use these to diagnose student strengths/weaknesses and inform instruction.	✓	✓	✓			
Interim Assessment Item Portal (IAIP)	This feature of Tools for Teachers allows users to download Smarter Balanced Interim items, keys, and metadata for use in the classroom as part of instruction or with colleagues for professional learning.	✓	✓	✓			
Assessment Viewing Application (AVA)	Use AVA to view the items on an interim assessment and to work through an item with students as part of classroom instruction.	✓		✓			

I=Individual-Level. **G**=Group-Level. **CAI**=Any Cambium hosted system like the Centralized Reporting System (CRS), etc. **ISR**=Individual Student Report.
E-P=EdSight Public. **E-S**=EdSight Secure.

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Resource	Description
Support Materials	
Content Explorer for Educators	This site is designed specifically for educators. Use this site to learn how test items connect to academic standards. This site offers test blueprints, accessibility guidelines, scoring rubrics, and much more.
Tools for Teachers	Tools for Teachers is a searchable, interactive online collection of instructional and professional learning resources developed by educators for educators. Resources include *Playlists* that address progression in skills or understanding for a topic. It requires access to login.
Accessibility	Use CSDE's Accessibility Chart to get an overview of the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available on all summative and interim assessments. Use the CSDE Special Populations web site to get more detailed information.
Practice Tests + Scoring Guides	Practice tests are similar in format and structure to the actual test and include about 30 questions. Use them to increase student familiarity with the testing system, functionality, and item types. Scoring guides are available, though these tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction.
Sample Items	This site provides examples of test questions so educators can see how Smarter Balanced measures college- and career-ready content. Teachers, parents, students, administrators, and policymakers can experience these test items just like students. The site is **not** for student practice.
Training Tests	Training tests are shorter than practice tests and offer a sample of six questions. Use them to increase student familiarity with the testing system; these tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction.
Calculator	Smarter Balanced calculators are both free to students and include innovative accessibility features. Students who are visually impaired or blind have the same opportunities as their peers to use online calculators. Use this site to introduce students to the embedded calculators.
Item Type Tutorials	These tutorials show users how to navigate the items and tools available. They can be accessed during the test or teachers can use these tutorials prior to testing to help students become familiar with the different item types that may appear on an assessment.
Technology for Online Testing	The manuals and documents on this site contain technology requirements and instructions that will assist technology coordinators in preparing computers and devices for online testing and managing local technology deployments.
Professional Learning	
Assessment Development	Participate in assessment development activities including item authoring for ELA and mathematics; passage review for content, fairness, and accessibility; item review for content, fairness, and accessibility; range finding; and data review opportunities. All opportunities will be announced in the Student Assessment Newsletter.
Integrating Smarter Balanced Resources Videos	Use the videos from several states including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington to learn how educators are integrating results from interim assessments and Tools for Teachers to enhance instruction.
CSDE YouTube Channel	Use the videos in the library to get an introduction or a refresher to important topics such as growth model and metrics, performance index (DPI/SPI), claim categories, text complexity, Sensible Assessment, and integrating interim assessments into curricula.
Research Library	Use the technical papers, studies, and local practice compilations to deepen your knowledge about Smarter Balanced in Connecticut. Key resources include Voices from the Field: Factors Influencing Academic Growth and the Smarter Balanced Growth Model Technical Report.

For more information, please see CSDE Smarter Balanced Results resources and the Types and Purposes of Student Assessment in Education: An FAQ.