



Smarter Balanced Resources

ANSWERS FOR PARENTS ABOUT ACADEMIC GOALS AND TESTS

Throughout their academic career, all students will take standardized tests, including an annual state test to measure how well they are progressing in the skills and content at each grade level in math and English language arts. Tests can open doors to many great opportunities in life, including college, scholarships and professional careers.

For some students, however, standardized tests can bring a lot of stress and anxiety. Your child's teacher is the best resource for information on what's happening in the classroom as well as the tests. In addition, here are some **resources to help you better understand what your child is learning** and some simple things you can do at home to help him or her feel less anxious and more prepared for the Smarter Balanced test.



WHEN IS THE SMARTER BALANCED TEST?

The testing window in California varies by school district, typically taking place in March through May each year. Visit your child's school or school district website to find more specific information.



WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE TESTED ON?

It's easy to find the learning expectations for your child's grade level in both math and English language arts.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- PTA Parents' Guide to Success, www.pta.org/parentsguide
- Univision's Clave al Éxito, <http://exito.univision.com>



WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS?

Children who are learning English and those with special needs may receive certain types of assistance during the test. Supports may include things like having a glossary, more time to take the test, having it read out loud, etc. It's best to talk directly to your child's teacher prior to the test date about what support is available, but there are also resources online that can help.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- Understood, www.understood.org
- iColorín colorado!, www.colorincolorado.org/teaching-ells/common-core/common-core-ells-assessment

WHAT CAN I DO IF I'M HAVING TROUBLE HELPING MY CHILD WITH HOMEWORK?

Sometimes even parents need help with homework, especially in math.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- Khan Academy, www.khanacademy.org (math specific)
- Great Schools, www.greatschools.org/gk/common-core-test-guide/



IS THERE A PRACTICE TEST AVAILABLE?

YES!

There's a free practice test available online that can give you and your child a good sense of the types of reading, math and writing questions that will appear on the test.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- Smarter Balanced, www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests

Tip:
Consider visiting your public library if you are in need of access to a computer.



HOW CAN PARENTS USE THE TEST SCORES?



Score reports, teacher observations, report cards and classroom performance work together to provide a complete picture of a student's progress. This information can be used to guide discussions with your child's teachers during parent-teacher conferences and throughout the year about any support they might need to stay on track.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

To learn about the score report and find activities tailored to your child's performance on the test, visit:

- California State PTA, www.capta.org/assessments
- Skill Builder, www.bealearninghero.org/skill-builder