



# Smarter Balanced and Business Leaders: Preparing Students for Tomorrow's Jobs

Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium creating next-generation student assessments that will be available by the 2014-15 school year. With nearly two-thirds of all jobs requiring at least some postsecondary education, Smarter Balanced is working with the business community to ensure students graduate high school with prepared for college and the jobs of tomorrow.

## Key Features of Smarter Balanced

- ▶ **A college- and career-ready evaluation** based on the Common Core State Standards with results that are comparable nationwide and internationally benchmarked.
- ▶ **High school scores** indicate readiness for credit-bearing postsecondary courses.
- ▶ **Innovative item types** that go beyond multiple choice questions to include constructed response and performance tasks that measure critical thinking and problem solving needed in college-level courses and the workplace.

## Preparing Students for Jobs of the Future

To compete in the global economy, the U.S. must do a better job of preparing students for life after high school. The Georgetown Center University Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that, by 2018, 63 percent of all U.S. jobs will require at least some postsecondary education or advanced training.

Smarter Balanced assessments will measure progress toward college and career readiness, providing information for schools, teachers and parents about where students are exceling and where they need more support.

## Raising the Bar for All Students

Until recently, each state developed its own education standards and assessments. Today, more than 40 states are implementing the Common Core State Standards, which define the knowledge and skills students need to know to succeed in college and the workplace.

Smarter Balanced assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The assessments will be administered online for students in grades 3-8 and 11 to measure performance and growth in an accurate and consistent fashion. For the first time, all students will be held to the same high standard and achievement results will be comparable nationwide.

### Assessment Implementation Timeline

- ▶ **Winter/Spring 2013**—Pilot testing of summative and interim assessments
- ▶ **Spring 2014**—Field testing of summative and interim assessments
- ▶ **2014-15 School Year**—Implementation of assessment system

## LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

Visit [SmarterBalanced.org](http://SmarterBalanced.org) to learn more about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and sign-up to receive our monthly eNewsletter. For more information, please contact [Info@SmarterBalanced.org](mailto:Info@SmarterBalanced.org).