

A Balanced Assessment System

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is committed to ensuring that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success. A balanced assessment system — which includes the formative assessment process as well as interim and summative assessments — provides tools to improve teaching and learning. The formative assessment process is an essential component of a balanced assessment system.



Digital Library

Available Now

Resources to help teachers improve classroom-based assessment practices



Interim Assessments

Available Beginning Winter 2014-15

Optional online assessments to check student progress and help teachers plan and improve instruction



Summative Assessments

Available Spring 2015

Year-end assessments in math and English for grades 3-8 and 11 that use both computer adaptive testing and performance tasks

Digital Library

The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The Digital Library incorporates collaboration features allowing educators to rate materials and to share their expertise with colleagues across the country in online forums.

Formative Assessment Process

Formative assessment is a **deliberate process** used by teachers and students **during instruction** that provides **actionable feedback** that is used to **adjust** ongoing teaching and learning strategies to improve students' self-assessment, reflection, and attainment of curricular learning targets/goals.



“This well-organized archive collection of strategies that real teachers have tried with real students in real classrooms is a clearinghouse of what works.”

– What teachers are saying about the Digital Library

Key Features of the Digital Library

Innovative Digital Library Design Features

Educators may use state-of-the-art tagging, filtering, and search features to locate, view, download, and rate resources to:

- ✓ Differentiate instruction for diverse learners
- ✓ Increase educator understanding of assessment
- ✓ Engage students in their own learning
- ✓ Design professional development opportunities
- ✓ Access materials for Professional Learning Communities

The Digital Library includes innovative collaboration features that promote collegial conversations across the country. These features:

- ✓ Encourage educators to rate resources
- ✓ Promote how the resources may be used
- ✓ Provide online forums for educators to share their expertise with and pose questions to colleagues

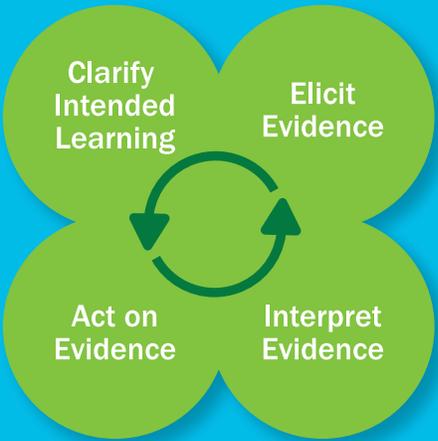
K-12 Instructional and Professional Learning Resources

These resources are:

- ✓ Contributed by educators for educators
- ✓ Vetted against a set of quality criteria
- ✓ Supported by research and evidence
- ✓ Annotated with common information such as learning goals, success criteria, and connection to the formative assessment process

The Digital Library contains more than 100 multimedia modules for English language arts/literacy and mathematics instruction and for assessment literacy. These modules are interactive experiences that may be used to:

- ✓ Demonstrate the formative assessment process
- ✓ Incorporate instructional tasks aligned to the Common Core State Standards into lesson plans
- ✓ Learn how to use evidence from the Smarter Balanced summative and interim assessments and the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning
- ✓ Support diverse groups of learners



The Digital Library resources are connected to four formative assessment attributes:

- Clarify Intended Learning
- Elicit Evidence
- Interpret Evidence
- Act on Evidence

“A dream for professional development resources!”

– What teachers are saying about the Digital Library

Contact your district coordinator to get your login credentials for the Digital Library.