



All About the Smarter Balanced Assessment

A summary of information for parents and students about the assessment

Why do students take state tests?

State achievement tests in the United States are standardized tests required in American public schools in order for the schools to receive federal funding. More importantly, these computer-based tests provide meaningful feedback that teachers can use to help students be successful learners and become prepared for college and career. State tests help your school's teachers do a better job of teaching!

Which students will take the assessment?

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is administered to students in grades 3-8 and grade 11. There are two assessments, one focusing on English/Language Arts and the other on Math. Together, the tests take a total of approximately 4-6 hours to complete depending on grade level, however, they are not timed so your student can take his or her time and not feel pressured to complete the tests in a specific timeframe.

When will Hillsboro School District students take the assessment?

The Smarter Balanced assessment window in Hillsboro School District is April 2 - June 8, 2018. Each school determines their own calendar for testing within those dates. Your school will send information in advance of testing to help parents and students get ready for testing.

What can students do to prepare?

First and foremost, students should pay attention in class and study hard. The test is aligned to the content being taught in the classroom. If a student is achieving there, they should do well on the test. Beyond that, students should:

1. Take the practice tests early and often, especially younger students. Practice tests are available here: <http://oaksportal.org/students/>
2. Get enough sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on testing days.
3. Relax during the test, do your best and have a positive attitude. Read and pay careful attention to test directions. Don't get upset or frustrated if stuck on a question. Reread the question again, and then solve it as best you can.
4. Don't worry about "passing" or "failing." Students do not pass or fail these tests and there are absolutely no penalties for low scores. Student scores help teachers learn where they need to focus their instruction so students learn and achieve.

What can parents do to help their students prepare?

1. Mark the testing days on your calendar so your student arrives at school ready to test.
2. Help your student take the practice test in advance of test days (<http://oaksportal.org/students/>)
3. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast on test days.
4. Encourage your child to do their best on the test and not worry or become frustrated.
5. Contact your child's teacher or the school principal with questions or concerns about testing.