Objectives for Today’s Session

• How will these assessments be different for WA?
• How is Smarter Balanced working toward college and career readiness?
• Will all states use the same cut scores?
• Who makes the decisions?
• What is the timetable/roll-out for the new assessments?
• What issues/challenges does Smarter Balanced face?
• What are some big decision points coming up for states?
US Dept. of Ed has funded two consortia of states with development grants for new assessments aligned to Common Core State Standards...

- Rigorous assessment of progress toward “college and career readiness”
- Common cut scores across all Consortium states
- Provide both achievement and growth information
- Valid, reliable, and fair for all students, except those with “significant cognitive disabilities”
- Administered online
- Use multiple measures
- Operational in 2014-15 school year
Smarter Balanced: A State-led Consortium
A National Consortium of States

- 27 states representing 43% of K-12 students
- 21 governing, 6 advisory states
- Washington state is fiscal agent
- WestEd provides project management services
Theory of Action Built on Seven Key Principles

1. An integrated system
2. Evidence-based approach
3. Teacher involvement
4. State-led with transparent governance
5. Focus: improving teaching and learning
6. Actionable information – multiple measures
7. Established professional standards
Assessment System Design
A Balanced Assessment System

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness. Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning. Interim assessments are flexible, open, and used for actionable feedback. All students leave high school college and career ready.
## Summative Assessments for Accountability in English language arts/Literacy and Math

### Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) Portion
- Built on solid technology
- Coverage of full breadth/depth of Common Core
- Precise assessment of all students

### Performance Task (PT) Portion
- Deeper learning with thematic and scenario-based tasks
- Real-world problems aligned to Common Core
- PT scores combined with CAT for overall score

### Setting Performance Standards (Cut Scores)
- K-12, higher ed, business, and policymakers part of decision-making
- Broad review of “Achievement Level Descriptors”
- Field testing includes PISA, TIMSS, NAEP items
- Longitudinal data systems used for triangulation

[Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Logo]
Optional Interim Assessments to Signal Improvement

**Flexible**
- Non-Secure
- Timing and frequency are locally determined
- Interim test-builder creates aligned assessments

**Supports Proficiency Based Instruction**
- Teachers can match assessments with scope and sequence
- Teachers can review student responses
- Teachers can score student responses

**Authentic Measures**
- Includes full range of item types
- Uses the same scale as the Summative Assessment
- Includes performance assessments
Optional **Formative Tools to Improve Classroom-based Assessment Practices**

**Improves Instruction**
- Tools/materials for Classroom-based Assessments
- Fully aligned to Common Core State Standards
- Available for in-service and pre-service development

**Pooled Resources**
- Access to the best resources available
- Collaborate with other states on special projects
- Professional social networking across the Consortium
- Tools to evaluate publishers’ tests
A Balanced Assessment System

English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3-8 and High School

School Year

DIGITAL CLEARINGHOUSE of formative tools, processes and exemplars; released items and tasks; model curriculum units; educator training; professional development tools and resources; scorer training modules; and teacher collaboration tools.

Optional Interim Assessment
- Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

Optional Interim Assessment
- Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

PERFORMANCE TASKS
- ELA/Literacy
- Mathematics

COMPUTER ADAPTIVE TESTS
- ELA/Literacy
- Mathematics

Re-take option

Scope, sequence, number and timing of interim assessments locally determined

*Time windows may be adjusted based on results from the research agenda and final implementation decisions.
Engaging Educators
K-12 Teacher Involvement

• Support for implementation of the Common Core State Standards (2011-12)
• Write and review items/tasks for the pilot test (2012-13) and field test (2013-14)
• Development of teacher leader teams in each state (2012-14)
• Evaluate formative assessment practices and curriculum tools for inclusion in digital library (2013-14)
• Score portions of the interim and summative assessments (2014-15 and beyond)
Higher Education Collaboration

• Involved 175 public and 13 private systems/institutions of higher education in application

• Two higher education reps on the Executive Committee

• Higher education lead in each state and higher education faculty participating in work groups

• Goal: The high school assessment qualifies students for entry-level, credit-bearing coursework in college or university
Progress and Timeline
Assessment Claims for ELA / Literacy

**Overall Claim (Gr. 3-8)**
“Students can demonstrate progress toward college and career readiness in English Language arts and literacy.”

**Overall Claim (High School)**
“Students can demonstrate college and career readiness in English language arts and literacy.”

**Reading**
“Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.”

**Writing**
“Students can produce effective and well-grounded writing for a range of purposes and audiences.”

**Speaking and Listening**
“Students can employ effective speaking and listening skills for a range of purposes and audiences.”

**Research/Inquiry**
“Students can engage in research and inquiry to investigate topics, and to analyze, integrate, and present information.”
## Assessment Claims for Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Claim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Claim (Gr. 3-8)</strong></td>
<td>“Students can demonstrate progress toward college and career readiness in mathematics.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Claim (High School)</strong></td>
<td>“Students can demonstrate college and career readiness in mathematics.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concepts and Procedures</strong></td>
<td>“Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem Solving</strong></td>
<td>“Students can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem solving strategies.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communicating Reasoning</strong></td>
<td>“Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modeling and Data Analysis</strong></td>
<td>“Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Technology Guidelines for New Purchases

## Minimum for New Hardware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum for New Hardware</th>
<th>Processor Speed</th>
<th>RAM</th>
<th>Available Memory/Storage</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Display Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.0 GHz</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
<td>1024x768</td>
<td>10” Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Operating Systems

- ✓ Windows 7
- ✓ Mac 10.7
- ✓ Linux (Ubuntu 11.10; Fedora 16)
- ✓ Chrome
- ✓ Apple iOS
- ✓ Android 4.0

Desktops, laptops, netbooks (Windows, Mac, Chrome, Linux), thin client, and tablets (iPad, Windows, and Android) will be compatible devices provided they are configured to meet the established hardware, operating system, and networking specifications -- and are able to be “locked down”.

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(v1.0 Apr. 2012)
Major Milestones

- **2011-2012**
  - IT Readiness (Round 1)
  - Cognitive Labs & Field Trials
  - Pilot of 10,000 Items/Tasks

- **2012-2013**
  - All-Call for Pilot Testing
  - State Educator Teams Begin
  - Item/Task Writing Begins

- **2013-2014**
  - All-Call for Field Testing
  - Set Performance Standards (Cut Scores)
  - Field Test 37,000 Items/Tasks

- **2014-2015**
  - Interim & Formative Available for Use
  - Operational Summative Assessment

- **2015-2016**
  - Verify Performance Standards

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**IT Readiness**

- **(Round 1)**
- **(Round 2)**
- **(Round 3)**
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The Challenges Ahead

• For Smarter Balanced
  – Keeping eye on the prize
  – Finding “successful innovation zone”
  – Sustainability model

• For Washington (and other member states)
  – Implementing Common Core
  – Preparing for first year’s results
  – Infrastructure
  – Policy coordination
• Factsheets, FAQ, Resources available for educators

www.smarterbalanced.org