



Creating Your 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Schedule

All students participating in the assessments will receive a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), a Classroom Activity, and a Performance Task (PT) in both English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.

Testing time and scheduling

SDUSD Testing Windows

- Traditional calendar schools, Grades 3-8: April 6- June 15, 2015
- Traditional calendar schools, Grade 11: April 24- June 15, 2015
- Year-round calendar schools, Grades 3-8: May 11- July 21, 2015

Scheduling Time for Testing:

The following table contains rough estimates of the time it will take most students to complete the Smarter Balanced assessments based on the time it took students to complete the Smarter Balanced Pilot and Field Tests. This information is for scheduling purposes only, as the assessments are not timed.

Estimated Testing Times for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Content Area	Grades	Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) items hrs : mins	Performance Task (PT) hrs : mins	Total hrs : mins	Classroom Activity (administered prior to the PT)* hrs : mins	Total hrs : mins
English Language Arts/Literacy	3-5	1: 30	2:00	3:30	:30	4:00
	6-8	1:30	2:00	3:30	: 30	4:00
	HS	2:00	2:00	4:00	: 30	4:30
Mathematics	3-5	1:30	1:00	2:30	: 30	3:00
	6-8	2:00	1:00	3:00	: 30	3:30
	HS	2:00	1:30	3:30	: 30	4:00
Both	3-5	3:00	3:00	6:00	1:00	7:00
	6-8	3:30	3:00	6:30	1:00	7:30
	HS	4:00	3:30	7:30	1:00	8:30

* Classroom Activities are designed to fit into a 30-minute window; however, the time within the window will vary due to the complexity of the topic and individual student needs.

When developing a testing schedule, use the estimated testing times to calculate the number of days and the amount of time it will take to complete an assessment in each content area and grade level.

These estimates do not account for any time needed to start computers, load secure browsers, and log students on, nor do they account for breaks.



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Recommended order of online administration

The assessments are comprised of two components (tests) for ELA and mathematics: a CAT and a PT. All PTs must be preceded by the administration of a Classroom Activity.

Smarter Balanced recommends that students take the CAT and PT items on separate days. For each content area, Smarter Balanced also recommends that students begin with the CAT items, followed by the Classroom Activity, and then the PT. Schools may opt to administer in a different order if needed; however, the Classroom Activity, which is designed to introduce the PT, **must** occur prior to the PT.

Recommended Order of Test Administration



Duration and timing information for ELA and mathematics

The scheduling/rules for each of these components is included in the following tables. Note that the duration, timing, break/pause rules, and session recommendations vary for each content area and component.

Assessment Sequence—ELA

ELA	CAT Items	Classroom Activity	Performance Task (PT)
Number and Duration of Sessions	Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fewer than two sessions (recommended) and no more than six sessions (rare/extreme). Session durations range from 40–60 minutes. 	Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer in one session Approximate session duration: 30 minutes Should occur one to three days prior to PT Should NOT occur on the same day as the ELA PT 	The PT is presented in two parts. Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer in two sessions corresponding to Parts 1 and 2 of the PT. Session durations range from 60–120 minutes.
Breaks within Sessions	Breaks can be provided during the test sessions using the software’s pause feature. If the test is paused for more than 20 minutes, the student will not be able to go back to items on the previous screens.	NA	The PT is presented in two parts. Students can take breaks within Parts 1 and 2; however, once a student moves to Part 2, he or she will not be able to review or revise items in Part 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: Students complete Part 1 in one test session and Part 2 the next school day.
Total Duration	Once a student has started the CAT items, they will be available for 45 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: Student completes this portion within five days of starting. 	NA	Once a student has started the PT, it will be available for 10 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: Student completes each part of the PT within one day.



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Assessment Sequence—Mathematics

Mathematics	CAT Items	Classroom Activity	Performance Task (PT)
Number and Duration of Sessions	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered in two sessions. Session durations range from 40–60 minutes. <p>Most students will complete the CAT items in two sessions of 60 minutes or less or one long session of more than 60 minutes.</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered in one session Approximate session duration: 30 minutes Should occur as close to the PT as is feasible, and no more than three days prior to the PT May occur on the same day as the PT 	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered in one session. Session duration ranges from 40–120 minutes.
Breaks within Sessions	<p>Breaks can be provided during the test sessions using the software’s pause feature. If the test is paused for more than 20 minutes, the student will not be able to go back to items on the previous screens.</p>	NA	<p>Students can take breaks during PT test sessions. Mathematics PT items are presented on a single screen. Following a break, the student will have access to the same items.</p>
Total Duration	<p>Once a student has started the CAT items, they will be available for 45 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: Student completes this portion within five days of starting it. 	NA	<p>Once a student has started the PT, it will be available for 10 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: Student completes the PT in one day.

Additional administration recommendations

Important reminders:

1. The number of items will vary on the CAT portion of each student’s test.
2. The tests are not timed, so all time estimates are approximate.
3. Students should be allowed extra time if they need it, but test administrators need to use their best professional judgment when allowing students extra time. Students should be actively engaged in responding productively to test questions.
4. The test can be spread out over multiple days as needed.
5. The Classroom Activity must be completed prior to administration of the PT. Inadvertently administering the PT before the Classroom Activity is considered a testing irregularity.

Test expiration

A student’s CAT remains active until the student completes and submits the test or **45** calendar days after the student has begun the test, whichever occurs sooner. However, it is recommended that students complete the CAT items portion of the test within **five days** of starting the designated content area.

The PT is a separate test that remains active only for **10** calendar days after the student has begun the PT. However, Smarter Balanced recommends that students complete the PT within **three days** of starting in each content area. A summary of recommendations for the number of sessions and session durations is provided in section 7.3 *Testing Time and Recommended Order of Administration*.