From: Smarter Balanced [<mailto:sbac@wested.org>]  
Sent: Tue 10/9/2012 5:08 PM  
To: Smarter Balanced  
Subject: Preview of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Items and Performance Tasks for Higher Education  
  
  
**About Smarter Balanced.** Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school, college- and career-ready. In addition to summative assessments, the Smarter Balanced system will also include formative resources that teachers can use in their classrooms, as well as a non-secure interim assessment tool for use during the academic year. The grade 11 summative assessment is also being designed with input from higher education to serve as evidence that individual students are ready for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing course work in English and mathematics and can be exempted from remedial coursework. Full-scale implementation of the assessment system will commence in the 2014-15 academic year.  
  
**Preview of Items and Performance Tasks.** To provide K-12 teachers and higher education faculty with a tangible sense of the types of items and performance tasks being developed by the consortium, Smarter Balanced has produced an online sample item tool that is now available at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/> . The sample items and performance tasks showcase the variety of item types being developed by Smarter Balanced, including technology-enhanced items that take advantage of computer administration. However, they represent only a small fraction of the more than 10,000 items and tasks currently in development to support the Pilot Test beginning in February 2013. The Smarter Balanced assessment system will cover the full range of knowledge and skills in the Common Core State Standards. To do this, each test item is associated with assessment targets and overall content claims. This information-as well as the scoring rubric for each item-is available through the online interface. The online interface does not feature accessibility tools and accommodations options that will be available when the assessments are administered to students in the 2014-15 school year-such as Braille, translation options, highlighter tools, and the ability to change font size or magnify portions of items. Smarter Balanced welcomes comment and feedback on the sample items and performance tasks. Educators and interested stakeholders may review the sample items and submit feedback online.  
  
**Preview Webinars.** Smarter Balanced is pleased to offer college and university faculty and administrators two webinars to learn more about the assessment system and the types of items and tasks being developed to assess student mastery of the Common Core State Standards:

**Mathematics Webinar** featuring Smarter Balanced Director of Mathematics Shelbi Cole, Ph.D.        
Tuesday, October 16    12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pacific

To register for the Mathematics webinar:  
  
1. Go to <https://wested.webex.com/wested/j.php?ED=209086712&RG=1&UID=0&RT=MiM0>  
2. Register for the meeting.  
3. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the webinar.  
  
         
**English Language Arts/Literacy Webinar** featuring Smarter Balanced Director of English Language Arts Barbara Kapinus, Ph.D.       
Wednesday, October 31  12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Pacific  
  
To register for the English Language Arts/Literacy webinar:  
  
1. Go to <https://wested.webex.com/wested/j.php?ED=209091447&RG=1&UID=0&RT=MiM0>  
2. Register for the meeting.  
3. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the webinar.  
  
Please note that you must be connected by phone in order to hear the webinar. (Audio through the computer is not available.) Please also note that these webinars will be listen-only; questions during the webinar may be submitted in writing through the webinar system.  
  
If you have questions prior to the webinar, please contact [sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org) .

Regards,  
  
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[www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)