

Plainfield Public Schools

Smarter Balanced Assessment Information Guide

Since the adoption of the Common Core State Standards in 2010, Plainfield has begun preparing students for the next generation of assessments known as Smarter Balanced. This assessment will be fully ready for implementation in the 2014-2015 school year.

What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?

Smarter Balanced is a new standardized assessment designed to align with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that have been adopted by the state of Connecticut. The Common Core defines the knowledge and skills students should take away from their K-12 schooling to be successfully prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities. This test will be replacing the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and will be added as a standardized test in grade 11.

Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)

Smarter Balanced Assessments will be taken online using Computer Adaptive Testing. CAT responds and adapts to the user to individually tailor the test to the student. Questions will be easier or more difficult, depending on if the student answers correctly or incorrectly. These tests are shorter and a more efficient way to measure a student's ability. Additionally, a detailed picture of where students excel or need additional support is provided, allowing the teacher to differentiate instruction based on what each student needs. Accommodations will still be available for those students in need.

How is it different from the CMT's?

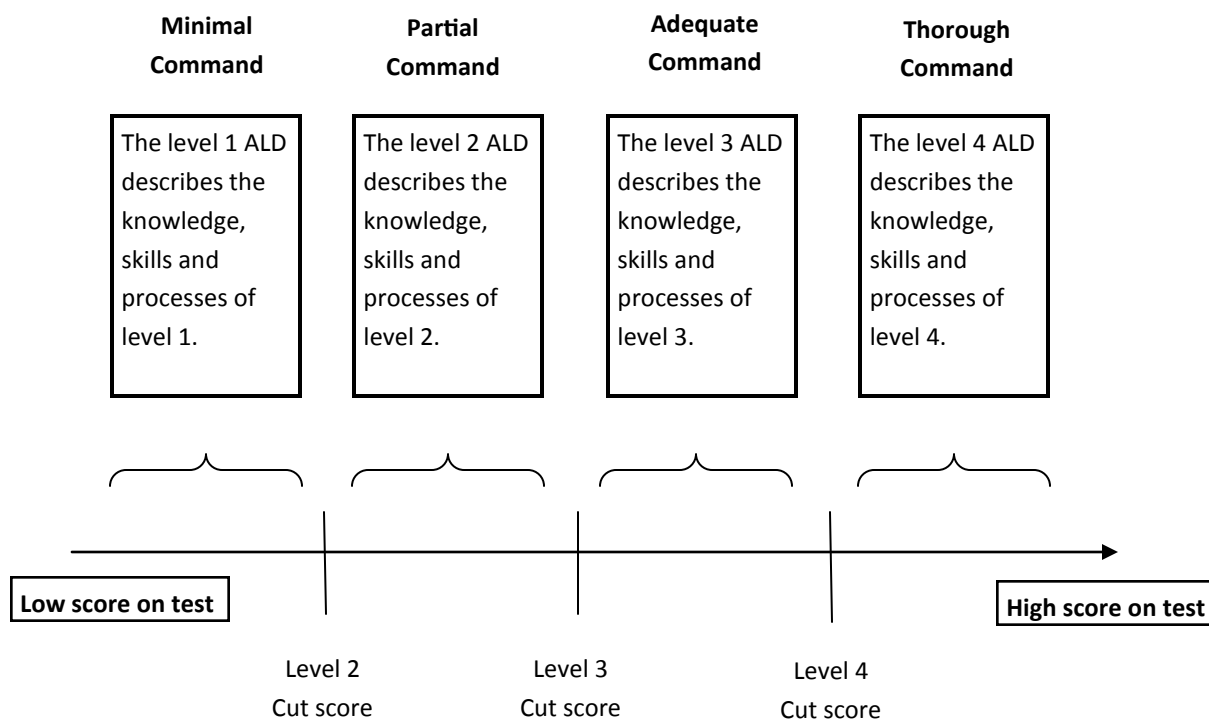
Unlike the CMT/CAPT, the Smarter Balanced Assessment will be administered online and will go beyond multiple choice questions to include short answers, performance tasks, and technology enhanced items such as drawing that allow students to demonstrate research, writing, and analytical skills. In addition to the year-end test, teachers may also administer interim tests to monitor student progress and guide teaching and learning. Also, an online reporting system will be used to provide timely, clear data on student achievement and growth. These reports will present parents and teachers information they can use to help students make even greater progress.



<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>

Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

ALDs are descriptive categories used to describe a student's performance on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. For the Smarter Balanced Assessment, outcomes will be reported in terms of four levels of achievement: Level 1 (ex. minimal), Level 2 (ex. partial), Level 3 (ex. adequate) and Level 4 (ex. thorough). The ALDs are text descriptions of the knowledge, skills, and processes demonstrated by students in each category of performance.



For Further Information

Smarter Balanced provides both practice tests and sample items, and can be accessed through the following web addresses:

- Sample items: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>
- Practice tests: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

To log in to the Practice test, simply select "sign in" or "okay" to move through the pre-filled log in screens.

You can also visit the Smarter Balanced website for more information at:
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>