How Educators Can Prepare Families & Students for the Smarter Balanced Assessment

About the Smarter Balanced Assessment

Who takes the SBA?

Students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 in HIDOE public & public charter schools

What does the SBA assess?

English Language Arts/ Literacy & Mathematics

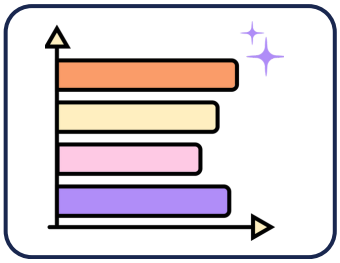
Why do students take the SBA?

- To ensure that all learners are supported
- To measure how well the Hawai'i DOE is supporting its students across the state
- To provide a chance for students to demonstrate their learning

How are SBA results explained?

PROGRESS CHECK

The SBA looks at student understanding of English language arts / literacy & math at each grade level to assess for understanding, progress, and (when applicable) readiness for college and career.



EXPECTATIONS

Each grade-level assessment is aligned to grade-level expectations outlined in the Hawai'i Common Core Standards.

Tohinaka, K., Sohn, H. H., & Pualoa, K. (2024) *HFEC Advisory Committee & Assessment Section Q&A* [PowerPoint Slides]. Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program. https://smarterbalanced.alohahsap.org/content/contentresources/en/Assessment-Section-Presentation-to-HFEC_071724.pdf

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Strategies to Prepare Students	Supporting Test-Day Plans	Environmental Support
Encourage plenty of sleep during the week of the SBA.	Ask, "What might be a good time to go to bed to get a good night's rest?"	Remind students of the SBA date & time on a daily basis leading up to/ on test-day.
Provide students and their families with access to practice test questions.	Encourage students to ask questions about the test at any time leading up to test-day.	Offer sample test questions through providing online links **and** printed paper copies to increase equitable access.
Encourage positive mindsets with affirmations.	Practice positive affirmations frequently as a class.	Greet students by name at the door, and offer each student a positive affirmation (do this as frequently as you can).
Teach deep breathing, box breathing, or other techniques to encourage self-soothing and relaxation.	Practice breathing exercises in class on a daily basis.	Encourage students to teach at least one person outside of school about a breathing exercise they learned In class.

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