



**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)  
Newsletter from the Clark County School District (CCSD)  
Issue 12 - Week of February 3, 2014**

*The Clark County School District SBAC Newsletter is a monthly e-mail that reports on current and upcoming Smarter Balanced development activities. To join the CCSD Smarter Balanced Newsletter, visit the website:*

<http://ccsd.net/divisions/assessment-accountability-research-school-improvement-division/sbac>

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**Smarter Balanced Training Tests – New Release**

Smarter Balanced recently released a set of Training Tests on January 30, 2014 in order to address the need for teachers and students to be able to familiarize themselves with the features of the Smarter Balanced assessment interface. The new Training Tests will allow the user to preview universal tools, designated supports and accommodations, while sampling new item types that are not currently on the Practice Tests. Although the same item response types are utilized on the Training Tests, there are no performance tasks or scoring guides to accompany the tests.

- Available for grade bands 3-5, 6-8, and high school
- Six to nine items available per content area (ELA and mathematics)

The Smarter Balance Training Tests are now available at: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

**Frequently Asked Questions for the Smarter Balanced *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines***

Smarter Balanced recently released a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers to assist in explaining the three categories of support that are described in the *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*. These supports: universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations are intended to be used in the spring 2014 Field Test.

The *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines* FAQs are now available at: [http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/SmarterBalanced\\_Guidelines\\_FAQ.pdf](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_FAQ.pdf)