



**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
Newsletter from the Clark County School District (CCSD)
Issue 8 - Week of October 1, 2013**

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>

In this issue:

- **Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines Now Available**

On September 10, 2013, the governing states approved the Smarter Balanced document *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*. The guidelines describe different types of support available for specified student groups. Three types of support are identified:

- **Universal tools**, available to all students. These include features such as spell-check, digital highlighter, digital notepad, embedded rulers, protractors and calculators for some mathematics problems, and dictionaries and global notes for writing performance tasks.
- **Designated supports**, available to identified students, including English language learners, struggling readers, and students identified with attention deficits. Supports of this type include color contrast text, blocking distracting content, text-to-speech, stacked translations, translated test directions, and bilingual dictionary.
- **Accommodations**, available to students with a 504 plan or an individualized education program (IEP) that specifies the need for such an accommodation. Examples of accommodations include American Sign Language (ASL), closed captioning, a Braille calculator, and speech-to-text technology.

The *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines* are now available at:

http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf

SBAC Highlights:

- **Smarter Balanced FAQ for Teachers** - <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/resources-events/faqs/>
- **AARSI Smarter Balanced Assessment eLearning**
Log into Pathlore > Online Content Search > Type "SBAC" into the keyword search, click *Go* and select the course of your choice and click *Start Course*.