

Smarter Balanced Assessment System

Clark County School District



Updated 2014



Common Core State Standards

- Why are they important?
 - Standards represent the skills students are expected to learn in each grade so that they graduate from high school capable of successfully completing first-year college courses
- What does this mean for students?
 - Clear, rigorous expectations that will prepare students for college and career success
 - Deeper understanding of subject matters
 - New assessments will provide meaningful feedback to teachers and parents on how to help students succeed

The Assessment Challenge

How do we get from here...

**Common Core
State Standards
specify K-12
expectations for
college and
career readiness**



...to here?

**All students
leave high school
college and
career ready**

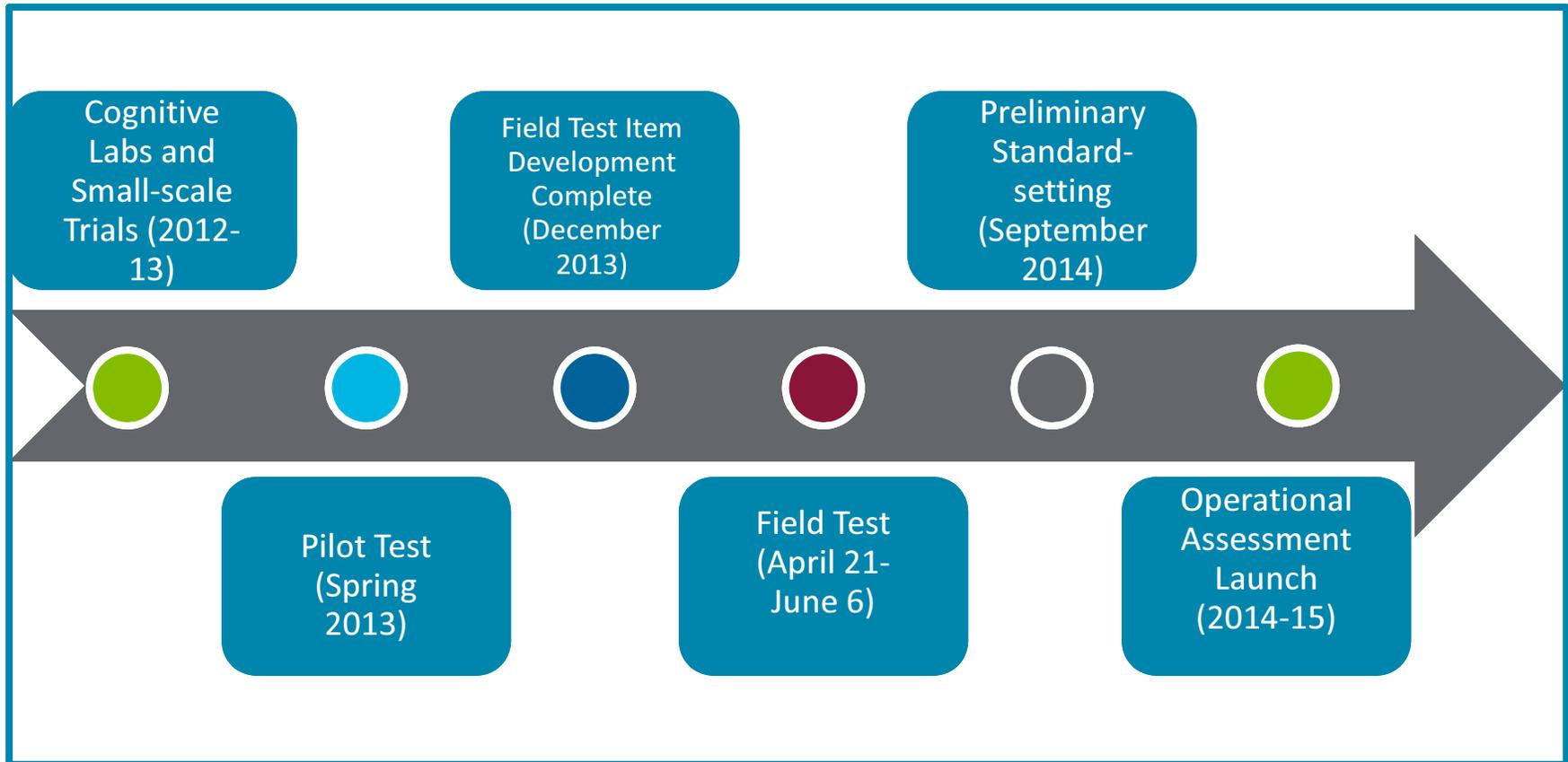
**...and what can an
assessment system
do to help?**

New Assessments:

Measuring Where Students are on their Path to Success

- Will replace existing tests and are an improvement
- Provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving
- Provide information during the year to give teachers and parents a better picture of where students are succeeding and where they need help

Assessment Development



Field Test:

A Practice Run of Our New Assessments

- Helps ensure assessments are valid, reliable, and fair for all students
- Provides teachers, schools, and students an opportunity to participate in a practice run of the assessment system
- Evaluates performance of 20,000+ assessment items and performance tasks
- Sets preliminary achievement standards that help track student preparedness for college and career

Field Test:

A Practice Run of Our New Assessments

- Each state determined how schools and students would be selected to take the Field Test
- Students in grades 3-8 and 11, along with a sample of students in grade 9 will participate
- Test is not timed, and each subject area (ELA/literacy and math) is expected to take 2.5 to 4 hours to complete
- Because the Field Test is a “test of the test” that will result in some questions being revised or dropped, students will not receive scores.

Field Test:

A Practice Run of Our New Assessments

- Administered online, the Field Test closely resembles operational assessment for students in the 2014-15 school year
- Most accessibility and accommodations features planned for the operational assessment are part of the Field Test
- Schools do NOT need one-to-one computers

Resources to Help Schools Prepare

- Practice Tests Available since May 2013
 - ✓ Both subject areas, grades 3 through 8 and 11
 - ✓ Approx. 23 items & 1 performance task in each subject
 - ✓ Uses same software as operational test
 - ✓ Many accessibility and accommodation resources
- Training Test Now Available
 - ✓ Quick Introduction to Smarter Balanced interface, item types, and resources
 - ✓ 14 items combined in English and math (all item types represented)
 - ✓ Grade bands (3 to 5, 6 to 8, and high school)
 - ✓ Most accessibility and accommodation resources
- Also Online:
 - ✓ All test design documents: blueprints, content specifications, item specifications
 - ✓ Technology specifications and Bandwidth Checker
 - ✓ *Test Administration Manual and Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*
 - ✓ Training modules on an array of topics

Safeguarding Student Privacy

- States endorsed principle that they retain control of student data
 - Smarter Balanced will share no student-level information with the federal government
 - Smarter Balanced will not sell student data
 - PARCC and Smarter Balanced chiefs recently sent letter to Secretary Duncan affirming that consortia will not change state reporting practices
- *Smarter Balanced will NOT require states to report student names or dates of birth*

Learn More and Stay Engaged

For More Information, Visit:

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

and

http://www.doe.nv.gov/Smarter_Balanced_Assessment_Consortium_SBAC/

To Experience the Assessment Yourself,
Take the Practice or Training Test:
SmarterBalanced.org/practice-test/

