Common Core State Standards

- Define the knowledge and skills students need for college and career
- Developed voluntarily and cooperatively by states; more than 40 states have adopted
- Provide clear, consistent standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics

Source: www.corestandards.org
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?
### Concerns with Today's Statewide Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each state pays for its own assessments</td>
<td>• Each state bears the burden of test development; no economies of scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on state standards</td>
<td>• Students in many states leave high school unprepared for college or career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy use of multiple choice</td>
<td>• Inadequate measures of complex skills and deep understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results delivered long after tests are given</td>
<td>• Tests cannot be used to inform instruction or affect program decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations for special education and ELL students vary</td>
<td>• Difficult to interpret meaning of scores; concerns about access and fairness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most administered on paper</td>
<td>• Costly, time consuming, and challenging to maintain security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Generation Assessments

The U.S. Department of Education has funded two consortia of states with development grants for new assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards

• Rigorous assessment of progress toward “college and career readiness”
• Common cut scores across all Consortium states
• Provide both achievement and growth information
• Valid, reliable, and fair for all students, except those with “significant cognitive disabilities”
• Administer online
• Use multiple measures
• Operational in 2014-15 school year

Source: Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 68 / Friday, April 9, 2010 pp. 18171-85
The Purpose of the Consortium

- To develop a **comprehensive and innovative** assessment system for grades 3-8 and high school in English language arts and mathematics aligned to the Common Core State Standards, so that...
- ...students leave high school **prepared for postsecondary success** in college or a career through increased student learning and improved teaching

[The assessments shall be **operational** across Consortium states in the 2014-15 school year]
A National Consortium of States

- 25 states representing 40% of K-12 students
- 21 governing, 4 advisory states
- Washington state is fiscal agent
- WestEd provides project management services
State Led
Committed to Transparency
State-Led Governance

**States Join Consortium as Governing or Advisory State**
- Governors
- Education Chiefs
- State Legislatures
- State Boards of Education

**State Representatives Serve on Executive Committee**
- 2 elected co-chairs
- 4 representatives elected by governing states
- Lead procurement state (WA)
- Higher education representatives

**Smarter Balanced Staff**

**WestEd, Project Management Partner**

**Advisory Committees**

- Governing State
- Advisory State

Membership status as of August 13, 2012
# Who We Are

## Executive Committee
- **Co-Chairs**: Carissa Miller, Ph.D. (ID), Joseph Martineau, Ph.D. (MI)
- **Committee**: Deb Sigman (CA); Dan Hupp (ME); Michael Hock, Ph.D. (VT); Mike Middleton (WA); Lynette Russell, Ph.D. (WI); Charles Lenth, Ph.D. (SHEEO-Higher Education Representative); Beverly Young, Ph.D. (CA-Higher Education Representative)

## Staff
- **Executive Director**: Joe Willhoft, Ph.D.
- **Chief Operating Officer**: Tony Alpert
- **Director of Strategic Communications and PIO**: Eddie Arnold, APR
- **Lead Psychometrician**: Marty McCall, Ph.D.
- **Director of Higher Education Collaboration**: Jacqueline King, Ph.D.
- **Director of English Language Arts / Literacy**: Barbara Kapinus, Ph.D.
- **Director of Mathematics**: Shelbi Cole, Ph.D.
- **Director of Support for Under-Represented Students**: Magda Chia, Ph.D.

## Advisors
- **Project Management**: WestEd (Stanley Rabinowitz, Ph.D., PMP Director)
- **Policy Coordinator**: Sue Gendron, Ph.D. (former Maine Education Commissioner)
- **Senior Research Advisor**: Linda Darling-Hammond, Ph.D. (Stanford University)
Work group engagement of 110 state-level staff:

Each work group:
- Led by co-chairs from governing states
- 8 or more members from advisory or governing states, including 2 higher education representatives
- 1 liaison from the Executive Committee
- 1 WestEd partner

Work group responsibilities:
- Define scope and time line for work in its area
- Develop a work plan and resource requirements
- Determine and monitor the allocated budget
- Oversee Consortium work in its area, including identification and direction of vendors

1. Accessibility and Accommodations
2. Formative Assessment Practices and Professional Learning
3. Item Development
4. Performance Tasks
5. Reporting
6. Technology Approach
7. Test Administration
8. Test Design
9. Transition to Common Core State Standards
10. Validation and Psychometrics
Technical Advisory Committee

Jamal Abedi, Ph.D.
UC Davis/CRESST

Randy Bennett, Ph.D.
ETS

Derek C. Briggs, Ph.D.
University of Colorado

Gregory J. Cizek, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina

David T. Conley, Ph.D.
University of Oregon

Linda Darling-Hammond, Ph.D.
Stanford University

Edward Haertel, Ph.D.
Stanford University

Joan Herman, Ph.D.
UCLA/CRESST

James W. Pellegrino, Ph.D.
University of Illinois, Chicago

W. James Popham, Ph.D.
UCLA, Emeritus

Joseph Ryan, Ph.D.
Arizona State University

Martha Thurlow, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota/NCEO

Brian Gong, Ph.D.
The Center for Assessment
Smarter Balanced
Approach
A Balanced Assessment System

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

Summative assessments Benchmarked to college and career readiness.

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning.

Interim assessments Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback.

Teacher resources for formative assessment practices to improve instruction.

All students leave high school college and career ready.
A Balanced Assessment System

ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3-8 and High School

DIGITAL LIBRARY of formative tools, processes and exemplars; released items and tasks; model curriculum units; educator training; professional development tools and resources; scorer training modules; and teacher collaboration tools.

School Year

Last 12 weeks of the year*

Optional Interim Assessment
- Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

Optional Interim Assessment
- Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

Summative Assessment for Accountability
- Performance Tasks
  - ELA/literacy
  - Mathematics
- Computer Adaptive Assessment
  - ELA/literacy
  - Mathematics

Scope, sequence, number and timing of interim assessments locally determined

Re-take option available

*Time windows may be adjusted based on results from the research agenda and final implementation decisions.
Using Computer Adaptive Technology for Summative and Interim Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased precision</td>
<td>• Provides accurate measurements of student growth over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailored for Each Student</td>
<td>• Item difficulty based on student responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased Security</td>
<td>• Larger item banks mean that not all students receive the same questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter Test Length</td>
<td>• Fewer questions compared to fixed form tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faster Results</td>
<td>• Turnaround time is significantly reduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature Technology</td>
<td>• GMAT, GRE, COMPASS (ACT), Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
K-12 Teacher Involvement

• Support for implementation of the Common Core State Standards (2011-12)
• Write and review items/tasks for the pilot test (2012-13) and field test (2013-14)
• Development of teacher leader teams in each state (2012-14)
• Evaluate formative assessment practices and curriculum tools for inclusion in digital library (2013-14)
• Score portions of the interim and summative assessments (2014-15 and beyond)
Higher Education Collaboration

- Involved 175 public and 13 private systems/institutions of higher education in application
- Two higher education representatives on the Executive Committee
- Higher education lead in each state and higher education faculty participating in work groups
- Goal: The high school assessment qualifies students for entry-level, credit-bearing coursework in college or university
Assessment System Components

Summative Assessment (Computer Adaptive)

• Assesses **the full range of Common Core** in English language arts and mathematics for students in grades 3–8 and 11 (interim assessments can be used in grades 9 and 10)
• Measures **current student achievement and growth across time**, showing progress toward college and career readiness
• Can be given **once or twice a year** (mandatory testing window within the last 12 weeks of the instructional year)
• Includes a **variety of question types**: selected response, short constructed response, extended constructed response, technology enhanced, and performance tasks
## Assessment System Components

### Interim Assessment (Computer Adaptive)

- Optional comprehensive and content-cluster assessment to help **identify specific needs of each student**
- Can be administered **throughout the year**
- Provides **clear examples** of expected performance on Common Core standards
- Includes a **variety of question types**: selected response, short constructed response, extended constructed response, technology enhanced, and performance tasks
- Aligned to and reported on **the same scale as the summative assessments**
- **Fully accessible** for instruction and professional development
## Assessment System Components

### Performance Tasks

- Extended projects demonstrate real-world writing and analytical skills
- May include online research, group projects, presentations
- Require 1-2 class periods to complete
- Included in both interim and summative assessments
- Applicable in all grades being assessed
- Evaluated by teachers using consistent scoring rubrics

"The use of performance measures has been found to increase the intellectual challenge in classrooms and to support higher-quality teaching."

- Linda Darling-Hammond and Frank Adamson, Stanford University
Few initiatives are backed by evidence that they raise achievement. Formative assessment is one of the few approaches proven to make a difference.

- Stephanie Hirsh, Learning Forward

### Formative Assessment Practices

- Research-based, **on-demand tools and resources for teachers**
- Aligned to **Common Core**, focused on increasing student learning and enabling differentiation of instruction
- **Professional development** materials include model units of instruction and publicly released assessment items, formative strategies
Assessment System Components

Online Reporting

- **Static and dynamic reports**, secure and public views
- Individual **states retain jurisdiction** over access and appearance of online reports
- Dashboard gives parents, students, practitioners, and policymakers access to **assessment information**
- **Graphical display** of learning progression status (interim assessment)
- **Feedback and evaluation** mechanism provides surveys, open feedback, and vetting of materials

“Data are only useful if people are able to access, understand and use them… For information to be useful, it must be timely, readily available, and easy to understand.”

- Data Quality Campaign
Support for Special Populations

• Accurate measures of progress for students with disabilities and English Language Learners
• Accessibility and Accommodations Work Group engaged throughout development
• Outreach and collaboration with relevant associations

“Common-Core Tests to Have Built-in Accommodations”
- June 8, 2011
# Technology Guidelines for New Purchases

**(June 2012)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum for New Hardware</th>
<th>Processor Speed</th>
<th>RAM</th>
<th>Available Memory/Storage</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Display Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.0 GHz</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
<td>1024x768</td>
<td>10” Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Systems</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Windows 7</td>
<td>✓ Mac 10.7</td>
<td>✓ Linux (Ubuntu 11.10; Fedora 16)</td>
<td>✓ Chrome</td>
<td>✓ Apple iOS 6</td>
<td>✓ Android 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Desktops, laptops, netbooks (Windows, Mac, Chrome, Linux), virtual desktops, thin client, tablets (iPad, Windows, and Android), and hybrid laptop/tablets will be compatible devices provided they are configured to meet the established hardware, operating system, and networking specifications—and are able to be “locked down.”

Minimum specifications for legacy systems and network requirements will be informed by the Technology Readiness Tool and will be available in August 2012. The most recent version of the document can be found at [http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/).
Timeline

Formative Processes, Tools, and Practices Development Begins

Summative Master Work Plan Developed and Work Groups Launched

Writing and Review of Pilot Items/Tasks (including Cognitive Labs and Small-Scale Trials)

Writing and Review of Field Test Items/Tasks (throughout the school year)

Field Testing of Summative and Interim Items/Tasks Conducted

Final Achievement Standards (Summative) Verified and Adopted

Procurement Plan Developed

Content and Item Specifications Development

Pilot Testing of Summative and Interim Items/Tasks Conducted

Preliminary Achievement Standards (Summative) Proposed and Other Policy Definitions Adopted

Operational Summative Assessment Administered

School Years

Find Out More

Smarter Balanced can be found online at: SmarterBalanced.org