WEDNESDAY WEBINAR #4
SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS

PRESENTERS:
AIRA JACKSON, LITERACY/ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DIRECTOR, OSPI
RANDY SPAULDING, DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY, WSAC
BILL MOORE, DIRECTOR FOR K-12 PARTNERSHIPS AND CORE TO COLLEGE ALIGNMENT, SBCTC
AGENDA

▪ Smarter Balanced Participation and Washington State Learning Standards Resources
▪ Smarter Balanced Scores and College Placement Agreements
▪ Bridge to College Transition Courses
PARTICIPATION REMINDERS

There are no changes in participation requirements for state testing. **All schools, districts, and the state are expected to assess at least 95% of enrolled students.**

High school students, staff, and parents should be reminded that participation on the Smarter Balanced state assessments also gives students a chance to avoid postsecondary placement testing and remedial classes.
10th Graders – Smarter Balanced

**MATH**

Now allowed to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment for math as long as they have:

- Completed Algebra 2/Integrated III; or
- Are currently taking Algebra 2/Integrated III.

*Should be a small percentage of students.*

**ELA**

Students who have or will meet the standard (earn a Level 3 or 4) on the Smarter Balanced ELA Assessment (74% of those who took it last year) *do not* need to take the ELA Assessment again.

*They will automatically be counted as proficient participants.*
PARENTS AND SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS: RESPONSIBILITY VS. RIGHT

Focused Communications with Parents:

• Child’s responsibility to participate vs. their right to refuse.

Why Participate:

• Parents: It is their right to know how their child, as well as the school, district, and state, is performing on the state’s learning standards.

• Good performance is worth celebrating and poor performance helps identify needs for additional resources. Assessment results help ensure educational equity for all students.

• Equity is for all students to have the opportunity to access the placement agreements and to begin college in a course that will support their degree and increase the likelihood of earning a degree.

State Learning Standards & Testing

What are “learning standards”?
The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards define what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Why do we need them?

Why do we have state tests?
Achievement data for students, schools, districts, and the state help districts and schools decide which teaching practices and curricula best support student understanding of the learning standards. They also give families valuable information about

translated into 16 languages.

http://www.readywa.org/translations.html
WA STATE LEARNING STANDARDS
RESOURCES - PARENTS

Mathematics

English Language Arts

Translated into Spanish
Currently, only 89 percent of adults in Washington have a high school diploma or equivalent, and just less than 20 percent of those adults have a postsecondary credential. By 2023 Washington State is aiming for all adults in the state to have a high school diploma and at least 75 percent of adults to have a postsecondary credential.

Get students on the pathway to success after high school is to adhere to the Common Core State Standards. They provide clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12th grade.

**SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT**

The Smarter Balanced assessment system, which is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, provides a way to measure student progress on those standards throughout the year and make adjustments and interventions as necessary to help ensure students are on the pathway to success. The assessments are administered grades 3 through 11.

**HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN**

The High School and Beyond Plan brings parents/guardians, educators and students together to develop a student-focused personal pathway toward college, career, or other destinations. The plan outlines educational and career goals and the courses, skills, and community or work-related experiences necessary to get there. Review the plan with your family, teachers, and guidance counselors throughout high school to make sure you’re on track to reach your goals.

RESOURCES

- Ready Washington: www.readywa.org
- Graduation Requirements: www.readywa.org/graduation.php
- Ready to grad: selective college planning website: www.readywa.org

Funding for this work is provided as part of the Improving Student Learning at Scale grant opportunity: www.seattleref.org/isls-group

Available at www.readywa.org/smarter-balanced.html
SMARTER BALANCED SCORES AND POSTSECONDARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENTS

Smarter Balanced scores can qualify students for entry-level college courses at participating colleges.

Provides an incentive for achieving the Common Core standards and offers alternatives for students to use their senior year more effectively.

Score or level 3 or 4 on the high school assessment means students are ready for college level math or English.

Most colleges participate, some variation in agreements.

For all 34 community and technical colleges (and EWU): a score in level 2 AND a B or better in a Bridge Course provides the same placement as a score in level 3.

More information online at www.readysetgrad.org/educators/ready/resources
11th grade Smarter Balanced test scores help you decide which courses to take to be ready for college, and they tell colleges whether or not you’re ready for college-level courses.

Ask your counselor about Bridge to College courses if you score a 1 or 2.

1. You can still go to college if you score a 1. You’ll need more support in your senior year, and you may have to take remedial courses in college.

2. You can place directly into entry-level courses at community and technical colleges if you score a 2 and get a “B” or better in your Bridge to College course.

3. You’re ready for college-level math and English if you score a 3 or 4.

4. If you score a 3 or 4, many colleges won’t require remedial courses or additional tests before you enroll in college-level math and English. Consider taking a dual-credit course to earn college credit your senior year in high school.

Check with the colleges you’re interested in to find out if they have additional requirements.

www.readysetgrad.org/sites/default/files/sbac.scores.pdf

FACT: Continuing your education after high school is necessary to compete in today’s economy. For more on college readiness and financial aid, visit www.readysetgrad.org, your resource to find, pay for, and complete the educational path that’s right for you.
Making a Plan Using Your Smarter Balanced Scores

Educational and professional opportunities exist across our state that can make your dreams come true. To help you on the pathway for success after high school, Washington adopted new career- and college-ready learning standards, which define what you should know and be able to do at each grade level.

In Washington, we measure how you and your school are doing in meeting these standards with the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). The assessment measures knowledge and skills that are important to your future, including problem-solving, writing and critical thinking. The assessment helps you, your family and teachers know how you are doing in school and what supports you may need to help achieve your dreams.

You Can Do This!

If you scored below career- and college-ready on your math or English assessments, you're not alone. Some of your classmates are in the same situation, and with hard work and extra help you can get back on the career- and college-ready path.

Graduate from high school with the skills to succeed in whatever path you choose!

Infographic and handout available at: http://www.readywa.org/smarter-balanced.html
OPT IN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

▪ **Mission:** To build awareness and understanding about the importance of high school assessments, and college and career readiness.

▪ **Goal:** To increase participation in the high school assessment, and to build a network of engaged students willing to speak up about the importance of a high-quality education.

▪ **Target audience:** High school students and high school teachers.
STUDENT VOICES PROJECT
STUDENT VOICES PROJECT

Student Video Submissions Contest

Washington public high school students tell us in a short video why they “opt in for a better education.”

Ten students will be chosen to receive $500 scholarships. Students can also win a $100 Visa gift card for their favorite educator.

Bridge to College Transition Courses

Providing high school seniors a dynamic way to prepare for success in college-level work.

▪ Allow more students to obtain “college-ready” math/English skills before they enter college so they avoid remediation and have a greater chance of completing a degree.
▪ Improve curricular alignment between K-12 and entry-level college courses in math and English classes.
▪ Give students a different approach for engaging in the math and ELA content.
WHY BRIDGE COURSES?

- Investing in Students and Teachers
- Building Partnerships
- Explicitly Addressing College Readiness Skills

Student Success & Degree Completion
2015-16 HIGH SCHOOLS OFFERING BRIDGE TO COLLEGE COURSES

74 districts
114 high schools
210 teachers
~4000 students
“The Bridge class has changed the way I teach. After teaching 31 years I had come to be stuck in a rut of just doing direct instruction. This class has made me a better teacher.”

Randy Mickelson, Mead High School

“As a teacher of seniors in high school, I have always wished for more assistance for the students who feel early on that they will not attend a 4-year university...With Bridge to College I have seen students with solid plans much earlier than ever before [and greater] hope for a higher education and a job that can support their families.”

Michele Feist, Anacortes
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BRIDGE COURSES

▪ **OSPI BTC Web Page**
  - District Registration information
  - Applications for 2016-17 in OSPI iGrants **Due date March 28, 2016**
  - Technical assistance

▪ **BTC Initiative Web Site**
  - Teacher/student videos
  - Communications materials for families, counselors

For GENERAL information: Sally Zeiger-Hanson, Project Manager, 360-704-1055 | shanson@sbctc.edu
For COURSE CONTENT and iGrants registration information: corestandards@k12.wa.us
NEXT WEBINAR

- Date: April 20th, 11:30am-12:30pm
- Topic: Financial Aid 201
- Website: [http://readysetgrad.org/#WedsWebinars](http://readysetgrad.org/#WedsWebinars) (recorded webinars and materials are posted here)
- Questions about the webinars? Contact annem@wsac.wa.gov or daniseackelson@k12.wa.us