

Out with the Old, in with the New

Former state tests in English Language Arts and Math have been replaced by Smarter Balanced summative assessments.

The new test is **engaging, interactive, and uniquely accessible** with questions that require **high level thinking**, look like **real life problems**, and are **similar to classroom work**. Most important, it provides **information that informs action in the classroom**.

Sample Mathematics Test Item: Old vs. New

Solve for x .

$$6\frac{2}{8} + 3\frac{5}{8} = x$$

(A) $7\frac{2}{8}$
(B) $9\frac{7}{8}$
(C) $9\frac{2}{8}$
(D) $18\frac{7}{8}$

VS

Jared is testing how much weight a bag can hold. He plans to put juice bottles into three bags. He wants each bag to have a total weight within the given range.

- Drag juice bottles into each bag so that the weight is within the given range.
- Leave the bag empty if the given range is not possible using juice bottles.

3 $\frac{5}{8}$ lb

Between 6 lb and 7 lb Between 10 lb and 11 lb Between 14 lb and 15 lb

Sample English Language Arts Test Item: Old vs. New

Which two words are synonyms for heap?

(A) pile
(B) row
(C) corner
(D) mound
(E) pattern

VS

Read the sentences from the passage.

As he neared the hollow tree he heard a growing hum. He made a similar noise and he saw one or two bees land on his bear suit.

What does the use of the word similar suggest? Pick **two** choices.

- ☐ Coyote was surprised and made an unusual sound.
- ☐ The sound Coyote made was meant to calm the bees.
- ☐ Coyote made a sound like a bear growling to tease the bees.
- ☐ The sound Coyote made blended in with the sound of the bees.
- ☐ The sound Coyote made was very loud to scare away the bees.

Tracking Progress

It's a beginning: Previous state tests measured different skills, so the scores can't be compared. Think of this year's score as a baseline for assessing progress next year.

It's a transition: This isn't just a new test; it's a system of new teaching, new curriculum, & new materials. As students spend more time with the new approach, they will demonstrate greater understanding. *In these early years, results may show that fewer students have the skills we want them to master.* But that's ok; the important thing is that we are on a path of continual improvement.

It's useful information: Our teachers will receive useful information for planning your child's education and you will know where support for improvement is needed.

Achievement Levels

- LEVEL 4 Exceeded the Standard
- LEVEL 3 Met the Standard
- LEVEL 2 Nearly Met the Standard
- LEVEL 1 Has Not Met the Standard