What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?  
Helpful Information for Families

**What is it?**
The Smarter Balanced Assessment measures what students know, based on the Common Core State Standards* in English-language arts and Mathematics. It covers the full range of college and career-ready knowledge and skills that are required for student success.

**Who takes it?**
Students in grades 3-8 and 11

**When is it?**
For students in grades 3-5, the testing window is April 7 – May 16.
For students at a K-8, middle school, or in grade 11, the testing window is March 18 – May 16.

**How is it given?**
During the 2013-2014 administration, students will be given the assessment on the computer. School sites will determine which computers/tablets will be used and will schedule classes throughout the testing window. It is expected that students will require 4 hours to complete all parts of the assessment which will be broken into sessions.

**Why the change?**
- As SFUSD shifts to the Common Core State Standards in English-language arts (2013-2014) and Mathematics (2014-2015), classroom instruction has deepened. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is structured to meet more challenging daily instruction.

**Who is making the change?**
- 45 states have adopted the Common Core State Standards; 
  24 are member states of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.
- For more information, visit the California Department of Education website: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp

*The standards are a written description of what students should know and be able to do in a particular content or subject area.*
What differences will my child notice?

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment goes well beyond multiple-choice.
- 4 NEW item types are included:
  - *Selected-response* (select one or more responses)
  - *Technology-enhanced* (utilize computer tools)
  - *Constructed-response* (collect evidence and integrate thinking to complete a response)
  - *Performance task* (multi-step, multi-standard problem-solving; will demonstrate research, synthesis and analysis)

Things you can do!

- Ask your child about topics covered in class over the year. Review concepts and ask your child to explain her/his thinking process.
- Ask your child’s teacher(s) to explain grade level expectations. Ask what support or enrichment s/he offers to students performing at or above grade level and what you can do at home to help.
- Review computer literacy skills, using activities available online:
  - *Treasures* – Computer Literacy Resources
  - *Everyday Math* – Computer Use Demos
    - [https://emgames.everydaymathonline.com/demosite/demoChooser_1.html](https://emgames.everydaymathonline.com/demosite/demoChooser_1.html)
- Take the Practice Test with your child. Work through problems and explain your thinking process.

To view sample questions, visit the Practice Test: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice-Test/](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice-Test/)

To view correct answers and explanations, visit the Scoring Guides: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/)