
Districts and School Staff

Q. Where do I find information on tools, supports, and accommodations?

A. This information can be found under the Resources section of the portal under your user role of Test Administrator or Test Coordinator, within the User Guides and Manuals folder.

Q. How can I zoom the font size and what is the difference between the online and paper/pencil test when it comes to font size?

A. The TA can select a larger font size for a student during the approval process in the TA Interface. Default size is 14 pt. The zoom feature can increase the size of text and graphics from 1.5 to 3 times the default size. If a student's IEP or 504 plan requires paper testing, then a large print test book may be ordered through the help desk.

Q. Do students need to finish testing in one day?

A. Students may pause the test wherever they want and resume it on another day. Make sure they review their answers as they will not be able to review the answers from a previous day.

Q. Customer created a Test Administrator account and did not receive an email. No 'Washington Help Desk' email appeared in junk/spam folder.

A. Request a new temporary password on behalf of customer. Ask customer to check for the password via this email account. Also ask customer to ensure that WAhelpdesk@air.org is noted as a 'safe sender' for this account, as it may be blocking outside email servers for security purposes.

Q. Are students loaded into TIDE for the Summative in the same way that students were loaded for the Field Test?

A. Once the students are loaded into TIDE for the interim assessment and accommodations have been set for the students, this information will travel with the student from the interim to the summative assessment. For example, if a student has Text to Speech in the ELA Interim assessment, they will also have Text to Speech for the ELA Summative assessment.

Q. Do students need to download the Secure Browser to take the Practice or Training test?

A. No. Students can use the secure browser; however, students can also use recent versions of the Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome or Safari browsers to take the practice or training tests, or they can use the native browsers built into iPads and Android tablets. Please be aware that the text-to-speech functionality is available only when using the secure browser.

Q. Do Test Administrators need to establish a TIDE account before administering the Practice or Training tests?

A. Students can take the practice or training tests in a proctored test session set up by a test administrator or as guests outside of a proctored test session. Test administrators (TAs) must have an account in TIDE to set proctored test session. TAs will use the same username and password to set up the proctored test session as they use to log into TIDE. We encourage TAs to practice setting up a proctored test session using the practice or training tests so they will have experience with how to do this before administering the summative tests.

Q. Will the Practice and Training tests provide the same testing interface as the Field Test?

A. Yes. It is also the same user interface as the interim assessments and the summative assessments.

Q. What are the grades and content areas available for the Practice Test?

A. The practice tests are offered at each grade (grades 3-8 and high school) and include performance tasks. There are approximately 30 items in ELA and 30 items in math per grade level. There is one ELA and one math performance task per grade level.

Q. What are the grades and content areas available for the Training Tests?

A. The training tests are offered by grade band. There are at least 14-15 items within each grade band. The grade bands are grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and high school.

Q. How often will student information be updated in TIDE?

A. TIDE opens on December 19, 2014. Information will be updated daily via nightly files from OSPI to AIR.

Q. How do I access the Digital Library?

A. A link to the Digital Library can be found by clicking the item cards for Test Administrators, Test Coordinators, and Technology Coordinators on the Washington portal.

Q. Can students take the Smarter Balanced Summative assessment more than once to try to improve their score?

A. No, not during this administration window. Students should take the Smarter Balanced interim assessments, Practice test, and training test to prepare for the type of questions and content that they will see on the Summative assessment.

Q. How many times can students take a test within a school year?

A.

1. All Smarter Balanced interim assessments - unlimited opportunities a year
2. Smarter Balanced summative assessments - 1 opportunity a year
3. MSP Science assessments - 1 opportunity a year
4. Grade 11 and 12 HSPE Retake (Reading) - 2 opportunities a year
5. Grades 11 and 12 HSPE Retake (Writing) - 2 opportunities a year
6. Grade 10 ELA EOC Exit Exam - 1 opportunity a year
7. Math EOC Exit Exams - 2 opportunities a year
8. Biology EOC Exit Exam - 2 opportunities a year
9. DAPE - 2 opportunities a year

Q. Where can I find more information on AIR systems?

A. User guides and training modules will be coming soon to the Resources page of the Washington portal. Most of the Smarter Balanced Training Modules will be available when the portal goes live on December 5, 2014 under the Tutorials resource category.

Q. What is the purpose of the Practice and Training Tests?

A. The purpose of the Smarter Balanced training test is to give students and teachers an opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features that will be used in the

summative assessments.

Q. What type of calculators will be available in the Secure Browser?

A.
Calculators are not available at grades 3 through 5. For grades 6 through 11, the calculator will vary by grade as follows: Grade 6 – Basic Calculators Grades 7 and 8 – Scientific Calculators Grades 9 through 11 – Scientific, Graphic and Regression Calculators

Q. What is TDS?

A. TDS stands for “Test Delivery System”. It is the online testing system that will be used for the practice tests, training tests, optional interim assessments and the summative assessments.

Q. What is TIDE?

A. TIDE stands for “Test Information Distribution Engine”. The TIDE system provides administrators with the tools to add and manage users and students participating in the ELA and Math Smarter Balanced assessments.

Q. What is the portal for?

A. This portal acts as the gateway to all your assessment systems. The portal provides links and resources to help students and educators take full advantage of AIR systems.

Students and Families

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