

Smarter Balanced Assessments: An Overview

Joe Willhoft, Ph.D.



Nevada Legislature
2013-14 Interim Legislative Committee on Education
April 22, 2014

EXHIBIT G - Education
Document consists of 20 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 04-22-14



Agenda

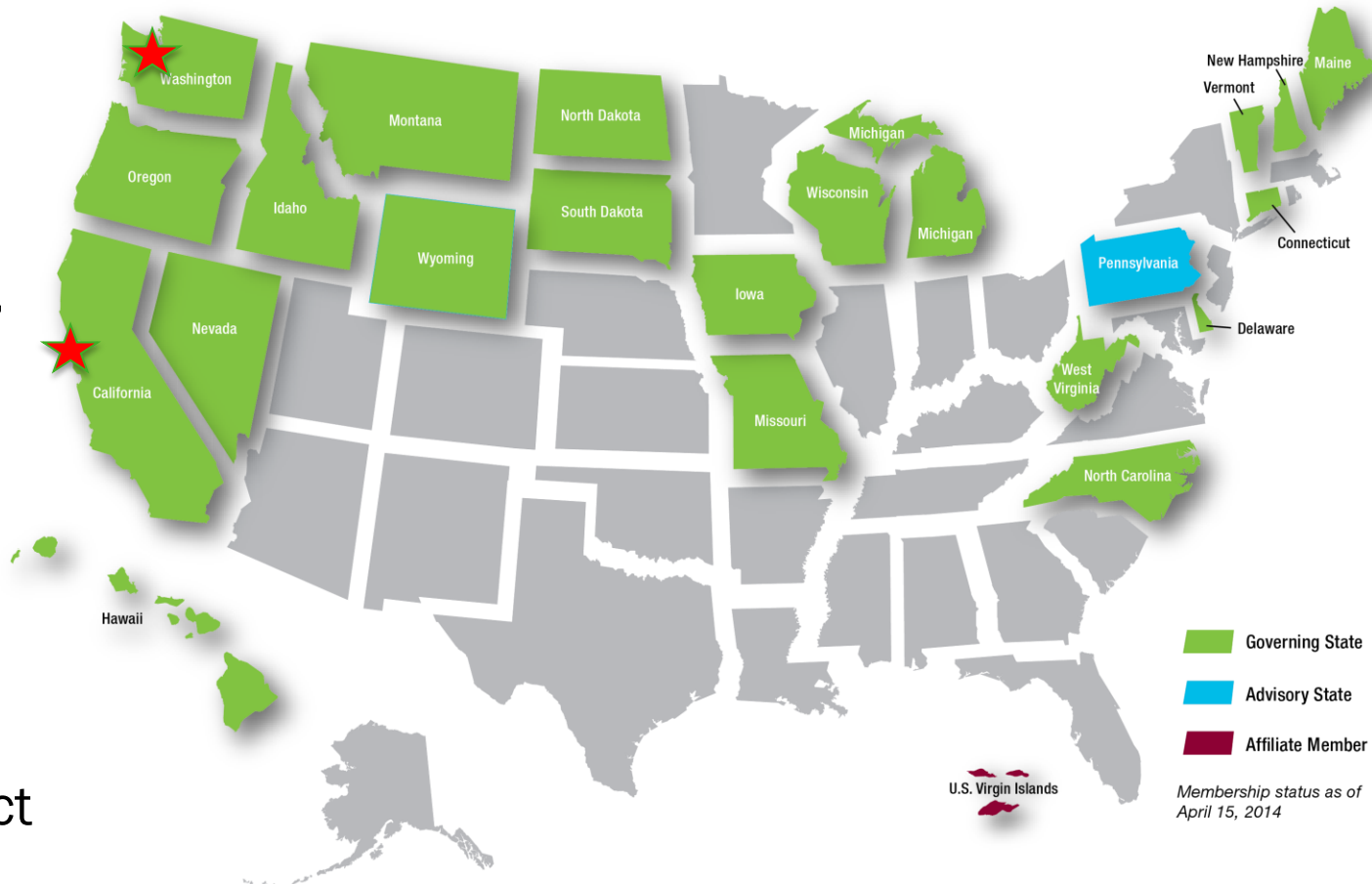
- What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?
- About the Assessments
- Getting Ready for 2015
- Addressing Key Issues:
 - ✓ Accessibility
 - ✓ Technology
 - ✓ Student Privacy

About Smarter Balanced



A Multi-State Assessment Consortium

- 23 member states and territories
- 21 Governing States, 1 Advisory State, 1 Affiliate Member
- Washington state is fiscal agent
- WestEd provides project management services



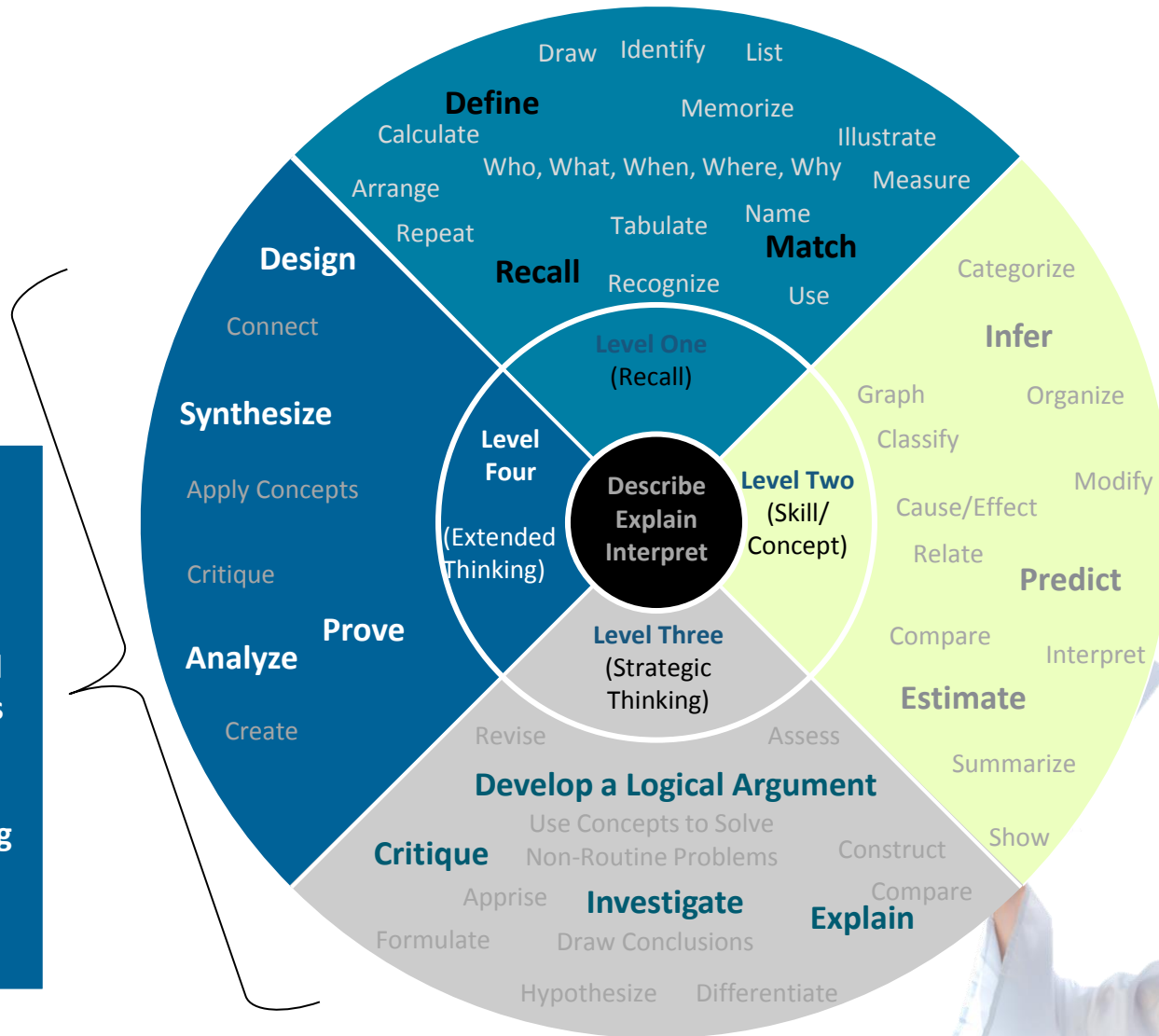
State-Focused, State-Led

- States mutually make Smarter Balanced decisions:
 - Design of the assessments
 - Consortium budgeting and procurements
 - Policies
- Each state retains independence over:
 - Privacy of student records
 - Selection of contracted services for test delivery
 - Purposes and uses of assessment results

About the Assessments



Assessing Higher Order Skills



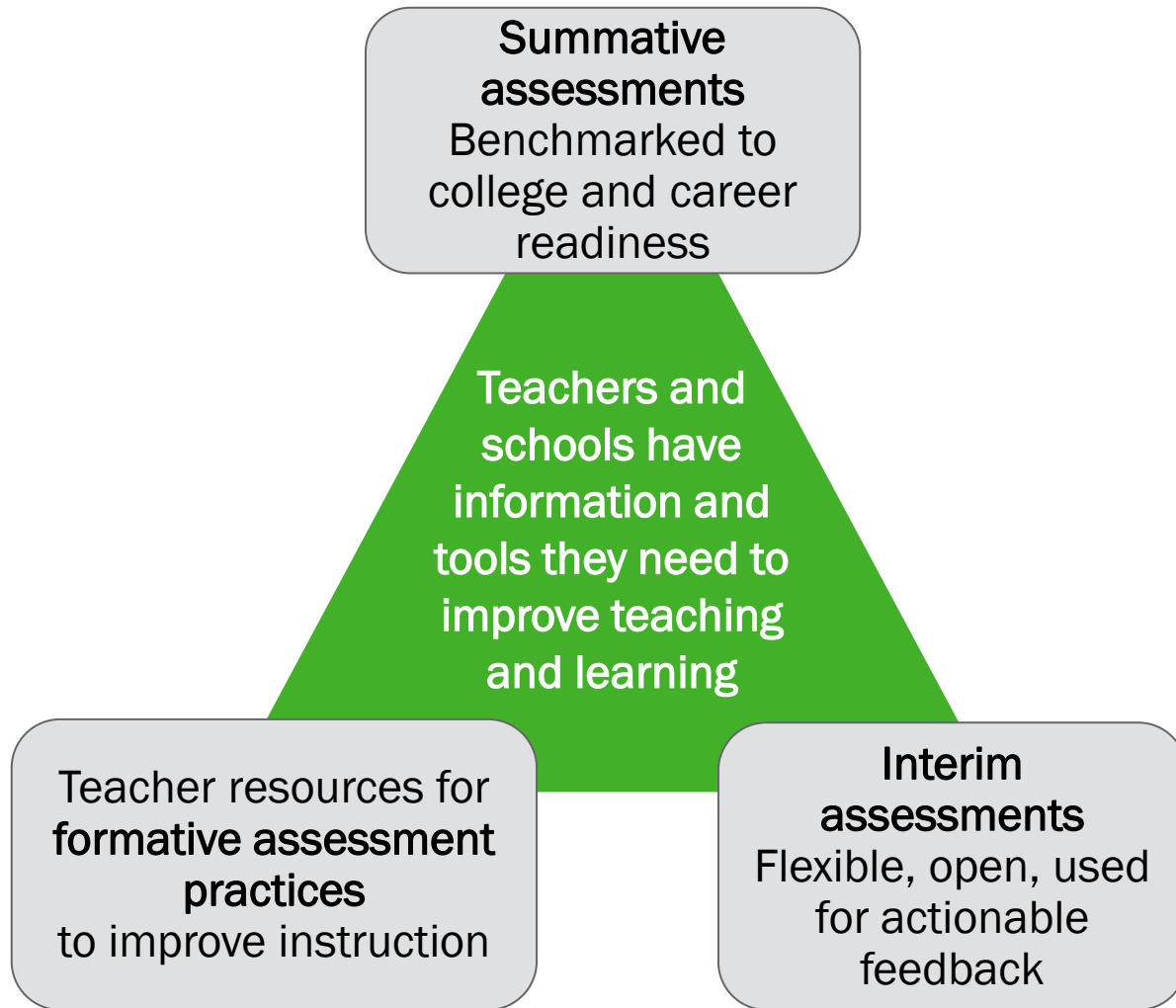
End-of-Year Accountability Assessments

- English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics
 - A Computer Adaptive portion
 - A Performance Task portion
- Year-to-year growth scale

ELA: Reading, Writing, Listening, Research

Math: Concepts/Procedures, Problem Solving,
Reasoning

A Balanced Assessment System



Getting Ready for 2015

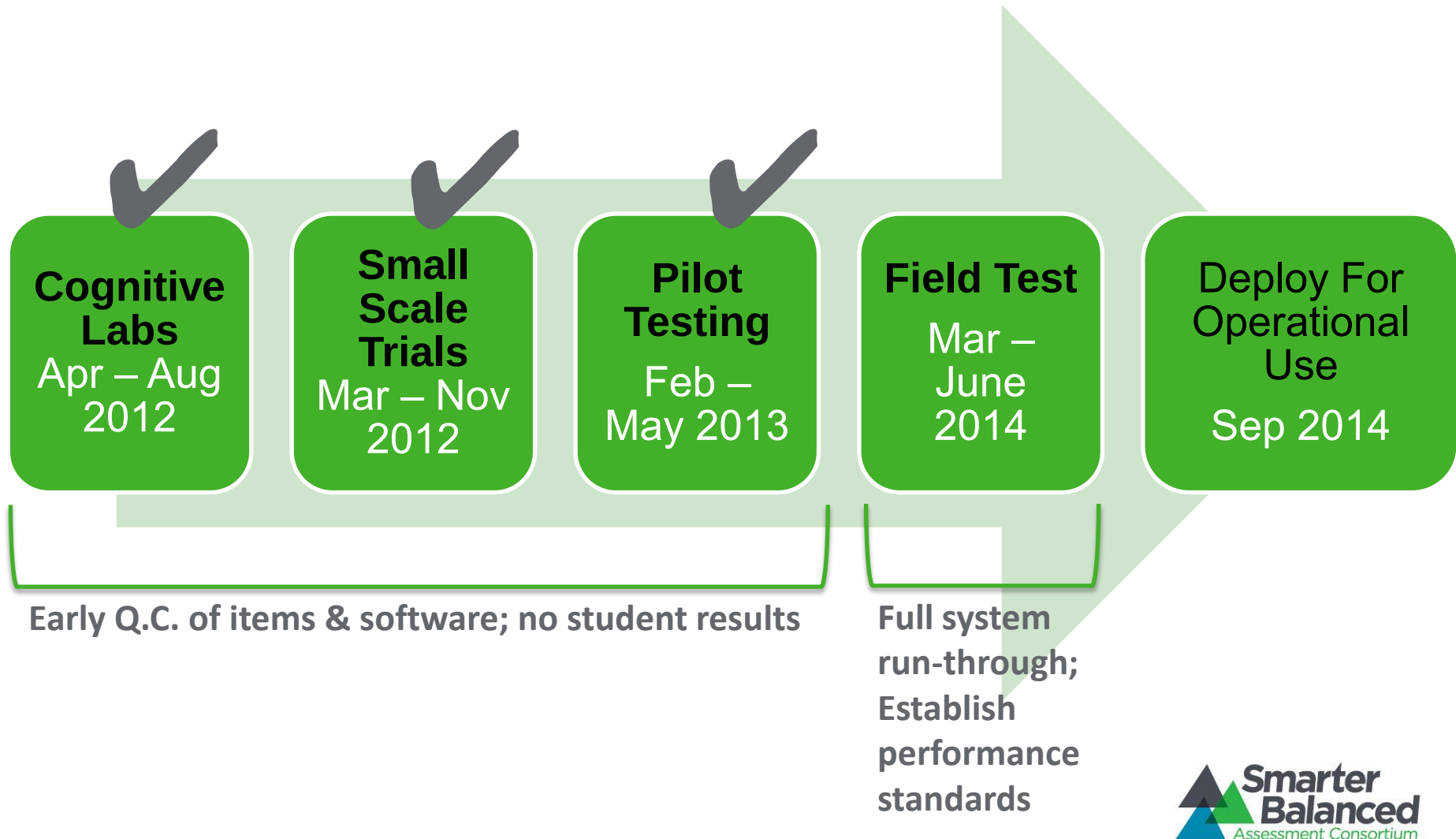


It Starts with Educator Involvement

Item Development & Review

- Over 2,500 educators involved across consortium
- Contracts with several states for item development
- State Leadership Teams: 7 to 12 member steering committees in each state
- State Network of Educators: ~100 teachers per state to create and review classroom supports

Major Milestones in Development of Smarter Balanced Assessments



This Spring's Field Test

- Item development was completed in December 2013
 - ✓ 21,000 items and performance tasks
- Field test (March 25 – June 6)
 - ✓ ~3 million students – 20% of eligible students in each state, plus additional volunteers including almost all students in five states
 - ✓ Statistical analysis of items and performance tasks
 - ✓ Quality assurance of software performance and accessibility & accommodation features
 - ✓ Opportunity for schools/districts to implement logistics
- Setting performance levels will occur in September 2014
 - ✓ Every state included in in-person panels
 - ✓ Online tool will provide broad stakeholder input

Addressing Key Issues



Accessibility & Accommodations

	Universal Tools	Designated Supports	Documented Accommodations
Embedded	Breaks Calculator ⁴ Digital Notepad English Dictionary ⁵ English Glossary Expandable Passages Global Notes Highlighter Keyboard Navigation Mark for Review Math Tools ⁶ Spell Check ⁷ Strikethrough Writing Tools ⁸ Zoom	Color Contrast Masking Text-to-Speech ⁹ Translated Test Directions ¹⁰ Translations (Glossary) ¹¹ Translations (Stacked) ¹² Turn off Any Universal Tools	American Sign Language ¹³ Braille Closed Captioning ¹⁴ Text-to-Speech ¹⁵
Non-embedded	Breaks English Dictionary ¹⁶ Scratch Paper Thesaurus ¹⁷	Bilingual Dictionary ¹⁸ Color Contrast Color Overlay Magnification Read Aloud Scribe ¹⁹ Separate Setting Translations (Glossary) ²⁰	Abacus Alternate Response Options ²¹ Calculator ²² Multiplication Table ²³ Print on Demand Read Aloud Scribe Speech-to-Text

Note: For detailed information, see the *Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*

Technology Requirements Responsive to School Needs

- Online “Readiness Tool” allows schools and districts to evaluate technology readiness
- Technology standards have been established for new and existing hardware
- Schools do NOT need one-to-one computers
 - ✓ Technology standards maximize access to online testing (support for older machines and operating systems, small file size to reduce bandwidth requirements)
 - ✓ School with 600 students could test online with a single 30-computer lab
 - ✓ Smarter Balanced Tech Readiness Calculator allows schools to estimate number of testing days and associated bandwidth
- Pencil-and-paper option available for three-year transition period

Resources to Help Schools Prepare

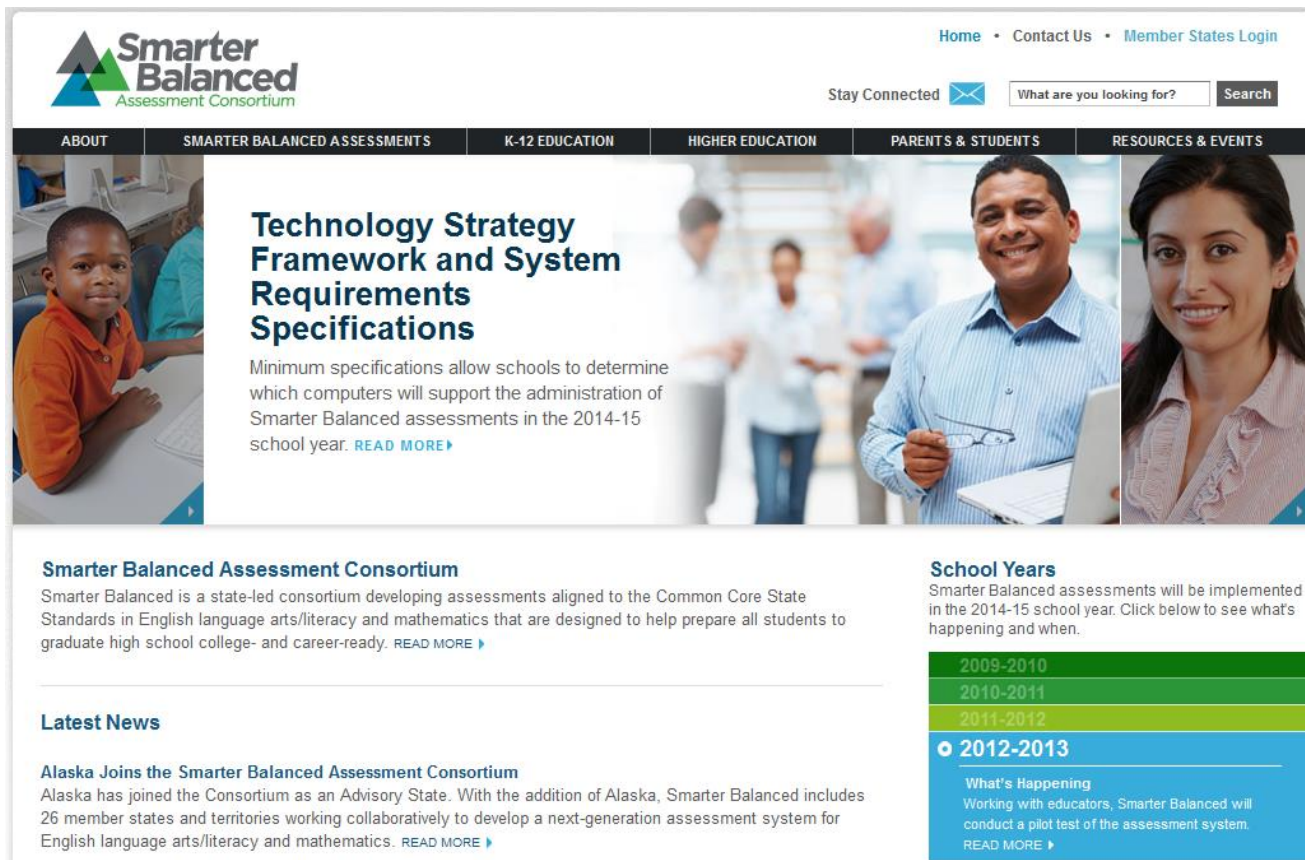
- Open-access Practice Tests available since May 2013
 - ✓ Both subject areas, grades 3 – 8 and 11
 - ✓ Approx. 23 items & 1 performance task in each subject
 - ✓ Same software as operational test
 - ✓ Includes refreshable Braille , pop-up Spanish glossary, and other accessibility/accommodation tools
 - ✓ Update in May 2014 with full accessibility features
- Also On-line:
 - ✓ Training Test
 - ✓ All test design documents: blueprints, content specifications, item specifications
 - ✓ Technology specifications
 - ✓ Training modules on an array of topics

Safeguarding Student Privacy

- States adopted the principle that each state will retain control of its student data
 - Smarter Balanced will not share any student-level information to the federal government
 - Smarter Balanced will not sell student data
 - Smarter Balanced and PARCC chiefs affirmed in a letter to Secretary Duncan that consortia will not change state privacy or reporting practices
- Each state will enter a data privacy and security agreement with Smarter Balanced
- Smarter Balanced does not require states to provide student name, date of birth, nor state or district ID numbers

Learn More and Stay Engaged

- Visit smarterbalanced.org for the latest news and developments



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Contact Us, and Member States Login. Below this is a search bar with the text "What are you looking for?" and a "Search" button. A horizontal menu contains links for ABOUT, SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS, K-12 EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, PARENTS & STUDENTS, and RESOURCES & EVENTS. The main content area features a large banner for "Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications" with a sub-headline "Minimum specifications allow schools to determine which computers will support the administration of Smarter Balanced assessments in the 2014-15 school year." and a "READ MORE" link. To the left of the banner is a photo of a young boy in an orange shirt. To the right is a photo of a man in a blue shirt holding glasses. Below the banner, there are two columns of content. The left column is titled "Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium" and describes the organization's mission. The right column is titled "School Years" and lists the years 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013, with the 2012-2013 year highlighted in blue. Below the "Latest News" section, there is a link to "Alaska Joins the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium".

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school college- and career-ready. [READ MORE](#)

Latest News
Alaska Joins the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
Alaska has joined the Consortium as an Advisory State. With the addition of Alaska, Smarter Balanced includes 26 member states and territories working collaboratively to develop a next-generation assessment system for English language arts/literacy and mathematics. [READ MORE](#)

School Years
Smarter Balanced assessments will be implemented in the 2014-15 school year. Click below to see what's happening and when.

- 2009-2010
- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013**

What's Happening
Working with educators, Smarter Balanced will conduct a pilot test of the assessment system. [READ MORE](#)

Questions / Discussion

