

Overview of the Test Delivery System

The *Smarter Balanced Field Tests* are available to participating states, districts, and schools. Students are required to use a secure browser to access the Field Tests for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics.

The *Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests* allow students and teachers to practice using the testing software prior to participating in the Field Test. Other users may access the Practice and Training Tests site to get a feel for the online testing experience. These tests can be accessed using the secure browser or a supported Web browser.

Systems for the Field Tests and Practice and Training Tests

Administering test sessions requires Test Administrators (TAs) to use a test administration site and students to access a separate student testing site.

Field Test Administration

For the Field Test administration, Test Administrators must use the Test Administrator Interface (TA Interface) to create test sessions and manage students' online testing progress during the session. Students must use the secure browser to access the Student Testing Site.

Practice and Training Test Administration

To prepare for the Field Test administration, Test Administrators can create test sessions using the TA Practice and Training Site. Students can use the Practice and Training Tests site to practice answering items and navigating through a sample test. Students may use either the secure browser or a supported Web browser to access the Practice and Training Tests.

Key differences between the applications used for the Field Tests and Practice and Training Tests are listed in Table 1.



Note: The term “Test Delivery System” is generally used to refer to the operational and practice and training sites as a whole. For additional information about login options for the Practice and Training Tests, refer to [Appendix D, Accessing the Practice and Training Tests](#). For more information about the Practice and Training Tests, refer to the *Practice and Training Test User Guide*, which is available on the Smarter Balanced portal in the Practice and Training Tests section.

Table 1. Test Delivery System for Test Administrators and Students

| Test Administrator Sites | TA Interface (for the Field Tests) | TA Practice and Training Site (for the Practice and Training Tests) |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Description | Test Administrators use this site to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create test sessions for students to log in to and access their grade-level online tests; verify students' test settings before approving students for testing; track each testing student's progress throughout the test; and pause students' tests. | Test Administrators can use this site to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create test sessions for students to log in to and access available practice and training tests; verify and edit students' test settings before approving students for testing; track each testing student's progress throughout the test; and pause students' tests. |

| Student Sites | Student Testing Site (Field Tests) | Practice and Training Tests |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Description</p> | <p><i>Used for taking the Field Tests.</i></p> <p>Students use this site to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> log in to a created test session and access online tests; use tools such as zoom, strikethrough, and highlighting; review answers before completing the test (subject to pause and timeout rules); and pause a test if a short break is needed. | <p><i>Used to allow students to become comfortable with the online tests and practice using test tools and settings.</i></p> <p>Students can use this site to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> log in to a test session (if one is created by a Test Administrator in the TA Practice and Training Site); practice answering sample item types that will be available in the online tests; practice using test tools; learn how to review answers before completing the test (subject to pause and timeout rules); and pause a test if a short break is needed. |
| <p>Access</p> | <p>Requires the use of the Field Test secure browser.</p> | <p>Requires the use of the Field Test secure browser or a supported Web browser.</p> <p><i>Note: Text-to-Speech is available only when using the secure browser.</i></p> |
| <p>Login</p> | <p>Only students can log in to the Student Testing Site.</p> <p><i>Note: Students must log in with their Confirmation Code as it appears in TIDE, State-SSID, and their TA's Session ID.</i></p> | <p>Allows guest login. This allows students, teachers, families, and others to see what the Test Delivery System is like and to see sample items.</p> <p>Also allows students to log in to a test session with their Confirmation Code, State-SSID, and training Session ID.</p> |
| <p>Expiration</p> | <p>All Field Tests expire a certain number of days after they are started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Task field tests expire 10 calendar days after they are started. All other field tests (Non-PT tests) expire 45 calendar days after they are started or at the end of the test window, whichever comes first. (The test window ends June 6, 2014. On request, an optional makeup week is available June 9–13.) <p>Students may start and resume tests in any test session proctored by a Test Administrator in their associated school.</p> | <p>Practice and Training Test opportunities expire at the end of each day. Thus, students must complete a practice or training test in one day, or they will need to start again from the beginning on another date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who do not complete a test in one session can resume the test that same day in another session proctored by the same TA. Students who logged in to a guest session with their Confirmation Code and State-SSID can resume the test the same day by logging in to another guest session. |