Online Testing Tips
Smarter Balanced Assessments and Science Measurements of Student Progress (MSP)

WCAP Portal http://wa.portal.airast.org/

In order to provide Washington State students the best online testing experience, educators should become familiar with resources provided for ELA and mathematics Smarter Balanced assessments and the science Measurements of Student Progress (MSP). Two resources are the Training Tests (ELA, mathematics, science) and the Practice Tests (ELA, mathematics). Both resources can be accessed through the WCAP portal. The primary focus of these tests is to familiarize users with the system, functionality, and question types. The tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction; however, these interactive tools are designed to allow students, parents, and teachers practice before taking the Smarter Balanced summative or interim assessments as well as the science MSP.

The Training Test is a set of sample questions within a grade band. These questions allow students to practice using a variety of navigational tools to answer different question types.

The Practice Test mirrors the comprehensive interim and summative assessment blueprints and contains both a fixed-form portion, and a Performance Task with Classroom Activity by grade level. Students should practice answering the questions, however, answers are not scored or saved.

Teachers may access classroom activities and a scoring guide for the Practice Test on the WCAP Portal.

Additional information for both tests is available here.

Training Test
Suggested options for training with your students are:

- **Whole class**: Take students through the Training Test using a projector/computer set-up. Provide time for questions and comments. Navigate forward and backward as needed. Depending on the number of questions and discussion, this activity can be completed in about 20-30 minutes in a classroom with one computer and a projector.

- **Individual**: Allow students time to try out the Training Test. This will take about 20-30 minutes and can be done with individual or paired students at a computer. Allow time afterward for student questions and comments.

Practice Test
Suggested options for practice with your students are:

- **Whole class**: Take students through the Practice Test or Performance Task using a projector/computer set-up. Be sure to demonstrate all the tools available. Provide time for questions and comments regarding how the test engine functions. At this point, developing full answers for the example assessment questions is not important. The Classroom Activity does not need to take place, but mention to students the process of using one prior to
undertaking the **Performance Task**. Depending on the number of questions and comments students have, this activity will take approximately 30–45 minutes for the **Practice Test** and 30 minutes for the **Performance Task**.

- **Guided using individual computers**: Guide students through the **Practice Test** or **Performance Task** while on individual computers. Give specific directions on using the tools available on each independent item or essay. Provide time for questions and comments regarding how the test engine functions. Depending on the number of questions and comments student have, this activity will take approximately 45–60 minutes each for the **Practice Test** and **Performance Task**.

- **Independently using individual computers**: Allow students time to explore the **Practice Test** freely. Once students are familiar with the online testing engine functionalities, teachers can take the students through the Classroom Activity prior to having students access the **Performance Task**. Remind students to practice all tools available or give them a list of practice points. Monitor the practice session and answer student questions as needed. Depending on the number of questions and comments students have, this option, including about 30 minutes for the Classroom Activity, can take up to 3 hours.

**Things to Consider:**

- Teachers are encouraged to answer students’ questions and give support during both the Training and Practice test, including the Performance Task.

- All students should have the opportunity to access both the Training and Practice tests before taking the summative or interim Smarter Balanced assessments or the science MSP online.

- Remember, the Training and Practice tests are set up for **practice only**; students’ answers will not be scored or saved. The Practice questions come from pilot and field testing.

- For schools and districts who have chosen to take the paper-pencil Smarter Balanced summative test, supports can be found on OSPI’s ELA and mathematics assessment web pages. One purpose of the paper-pencil sample tests is to give students an opportunity to practice using two booklets: a test booklet and a separate answer booklet. Educators should read through the Teacher Sample Booklet Companion document prior to using the paper-pencil supports with students.
  - ELA [http://k12.wa.us/ELA_Assessment/default.aspx](http://k12.wa.us/ELA_Assessment/default.aspx)
  - Math [http://k12.wa.us/Mathematics/default.aspx](http://k12.wa.us/Mathematics/default.aspx)

- Additional resources to help teacher, parents, and students prepare for both the online and paper forms of the **science MSP** are available on the science assessment web page. These resources include updates documents with sample test questions, short-answer item scoring trainings, lessons learned documents, and short-answer item templates.
  - Science [http://www.k12.wa.us/Science/EducatorResources.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/Science/EducatorResources.aspx)

Additional support documents are in development and are projected to be available near the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.