

## Preparing students to be college and career ready

California is transitioning to a new set of expectations for our students and a new system for measuring growth. The Common Core standards in English language arts and mathematics are internationally benchmarked and focused on supporting students to be ready for the 21st century. The Smarter Balanced assessments are an important tool in ensuring students are meeting expectations set by the standards. We believe that these investments will strengthen the educational program provided to our students, but successful implementation will require sustained support and collaboration of the entire community.

### **Common Core academic standards will help ensure students graduate college and career ready**

The state's new standards will benefit students by having fewer, clearer, and deeper standards and require a greater use of analysis, critical thinking and real-world skills. They are also internationally benchmarked and line up with the skills that all students need to prepare for a global 21st century economy that's increasingly competitive and always evolving. As an example, rather than reciting facts from a reading passage, students are asked to show deeper understanding, such as examining the theme of the passage, using information from text to explain their answer. Local districts and teachers have been reviewing and updating how they teach the new standards to students over the last few years, and are earnestly engaged in exposing students to this new approach to learning.

### **The Smarter Balanced assessments were developed to measure how well students are learning these deeper learning skills**

The new Smarter Balanced tests are designed to help educators and parents know if students are progressing and understanding what they are supposed to be learning. These tests move away from a fill in the bubble format to a technology-based format allowing for a better measure of the knowledge and skills students are acquiring through the use of short answer, longer responses and performance tasks, in addition to multiple choice questions. The assessments will also be adaptive, which means the difficulty of subsequent questions will be based on the response to the previous question. This allows the test to more accurately and efficiently reflect what students know. It is important to make sure students are on the path towards graduating college and career ready and more importantly to identify any challenges early.

### **We all have a stake in the success of the new assessment system so the work over the next several months will take our ongoing support and commitment**

Our students have a real opportunity to reach new levels of success during their K-12 education career as the assessment is refined and Common Core is fully implemented. There's an important need for policymakers, district leaders, teachers, parents, business leaders and community members as this transition continues, which is to understand the implementation process and maintain reasonable expectations. The administration of these new assessments in Spring 2014 will be "testing the test" as well as the capacity of districts, and will provide an opportunity for issues that arise to be addressed before the test goes live in the spring of 2015. While we recognize the hard work that needs to be done by teachers, district leaders, and state policymakers to make Common Core implementation successful, we believe that the investments and hard work will pay off for our students in the long run in preparing them for college and career.

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Active Advisors  
ActiveMedia  
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Akadus Inc.  
Alameda County Early Care and Education  
Planning Council  
Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance  
ALearn  
Alliance San Diego  
American Association of University Women –  
California  
American Association of University Women Half  
Moon Bay Branch  
American Indian Families Partnership  
American Youth Rugby Union  
APLUS+ the Association of Personalized  
Learning Schools & Services  
Asian Business Association of Los Angeles  
Asian Business Association of San Diego  
Association of California School Administrators  
Association of Independent Colleges and  
Universities  
Bay Area Central American Chamber of  
Commerce  
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BayBio  
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Biotechnology Institute  
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Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council  
Butte County Superintendent of Schools Tim  
Taylor  
CA State Conference-NAACP  
California Alliance for Arts Education  
California Alliance of African American  
Educators  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce  
California Association for the Gifted  
California Biomedical Research Association  
California Black Chamber of Commerce  
California Black Health Network  
California Child Care Coordinators Association

California Competes: Higher Education for a  
Strong Economy  
California Council of Churches IMPACT  
California Council on Youth Relations  
California County Superintendents Educational  
Services Association  
California Education Partners  
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce  
California League of Schools  
California League of United Latin American  
Citizens  
California Math Council  
California Police Activities League  
California School Boards Association  
California School Business Officials  
California School Nurses Organization  
California School-Age Consortium  
California School-Based Health Alliance  
California Science Teachers Association  
California Small Business Association  
California Society for Biomedical Research  
California State PTA  
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Campaign for College Opportunity  
Campus Kids Connection, Inc.  
Capacity Builders, Inc.  
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Center for Ecoliteracy  
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research  
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Central Valley Asian-Pacific Chamber of  
Commerce  
Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, Inc.  
Chamber of Commerce Mountain View  
CHI-California Healthcare Institute  
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa  
County  
Child Care Links  
Child Care Partnership Council, San Mateo  
County  
Childhood Injury Prevention Network - Bay Area

Children Now  
Children's Learning Cottage  
Children's Nurturing Project  
Clovis Family Literacy  
Coalition for Adequate School Housing  
College-Ready Promise  
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Community Family Services  
Community Investment Strategies  
Contra Costa Child Care Council  
Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Joseph Ovick  
Contra Costa Economic Partnership  
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Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy and Leadership (CAPITAL)  
Cow Hollow School  
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Educators 4 Excellence  
EMC Research  
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Extended Child Care Coalition  
Fall Presents, Inc.  
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Families in Schools  
Family Connections  
Family Resource & Referral Center  
Family Service Association

Fathers and Families of San Joaquin  
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids  
Financial Architects Partners  
First 5 Alameda County  
First 5 Association of California  
First 5 Fresno County  
First 5 Marin County  
First 5 San Bernardino Children & Families Commission  
First 5 San Luis Obispo  
First 5 Santa Clara  
First 5 Yolo County  
First Place for Youth  
Focus Forward  
Fremont Family Resource Center  
Full Circle Fund  
Game Theory Academy  
George Stafford & Associates  
Girls Incorporated of Alameda County  
Girls to Women  
Give for a Smile  
GLOW Foundation  
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center  
Great Oakland Public Schools Leadership Center  
Green Dot Schools  
Guatemalan American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco  
Half Moon Bay Brewing Company  
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Harbour Consulting  
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Healthier Kids Foundation  
Healthy Cities Tutoring  
High Thrive  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Contra Costa County  
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Inn at the Mavericks  
Inner-City Arts  
Jeffrey Scott Agency  
JH Gardner Consulting  
Jillybeads 4 Justice  
John Burton Foundation  
Jumpstart Northern California

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Kidango  
Kids in Common  
Kids' Own Wisdom  
KinderLoop  
Kiva  
Krause Center for Innovation  
Latin American & Caribbean Business Chamber  
of Commerce  
Latino Community Foundation  
League of Women Voters, California  
Legacy 4 Kids  
Legacy for Kids Magazine  
Legal Advocates for Children & Youth  
Lemonade Creative Consulting  
Leonetti/O'Connell Family Foundation  
Lincoln Child Center  
Local Early Education Planning Council of Santa  
Clara County  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Urban League  
LP Learning  
MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino  
Americana  
Madera Coalition  
MALDEF  
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MindSpark  
Miss Allyson's Preschool  
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Moreno Valley Unified School District  
Morgan Family Foundation  
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North Bay Leadership Council  
Optimal Solutions Consulting  
Our Family Coalition  
Pacific Community Solutions, Inc.  
Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce  
Para Los Niños  
Parent Institute for Quality Education  
Parent Revolution  
Partnership for Children and Youth  
Peninsula Family Service  
Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce  
Pretend City Children's Museum  
Professional Association for Childhood Education  
Professional Engineers in California Government  
(PECG)  
Public Advocates  
Public Profit  
Pyramid Alternatives  
RDP Consulting  
Reach Potential Movement  
Reading and Beyond  
Reading Bonanza in the Park  
ReadyNation/America's Edge  
Richmond Community Foundation  
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Kenn  
Young  
Rogers Family Foundation  
Rotary Club of Mountain View  
RYSE Youth Center  
Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce  
Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools  
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Council  
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San Carlos Chamber of Commerce  
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Randolph E. Ward  
San Diego Urban League  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
San Joaquin Drug  
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce  
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Teach Plus Los Angeles  
TechNet  
Teen Success, Inc.  
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The LA Trust for Children's Health  
The Little Mud Puddle's Learning Center  
The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools  
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Third Street Community Center  
ThriveSF  
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United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
United Way of Merced County  
United Way of the Bay Area  
United Ways of California  
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Vacaville Police Activities League  
Valley Springs Youth  
Violence Prevention Coalition  
Vision to Learn  
Viva Strategy and Communications  
Watsonville Police Activities League  
Waypoint Wealth Partners  
West Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
WestCare California, Inc.  
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Youth Advocate Network for Sustainable Communities (YANSC)  
Youth Alliance