

# What Do the Scores Mean?

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in English language arts/literacy (ELA) is part of the California system of student assessment called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The test measures what students know and can do using the California Common Core State Standards for ELA, which focus on reading, listening, writing, and research/inquiry. The test is administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in ELA consists of a computer-adaptive assessment and a performance task. The computer-adaptive portion of the assessment provides more precision by customizing the test for each student by selecting items that match the student's performance. The performance task allows students to apply their higher-order thinking skills by evaluating information and developing and communicating a solution to a real-world problem.

## Test Scores

A student's test is scored based on the number and difficulty of questions answered correctly. The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment scores in ELA are reported for the entire test (overall score) as well as for two composite claims—Composite Area 1: Reading and Listening, and Composite Area 2: Writing and Research/Inquiry.

## Interpretation and Use

A student's overall performance is categorized into one of four achievement levels, which describe the relative accuracy and complexity of their performance within their grade level.

**Level 4: Advanced**—The student demonstrates advanced grade-level knowledge and skills and shows a sophisticated understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills in ELA needed for success in future coursework.

**Level 3: Proficient**—The student demonstrates proficient grade-level knowledge and skills and shows a thorough understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills in ELA needed for success in future coursework.

**Level 2: Developing**—The student demonstrates developing grade-level knowledge and skills and shows an initial understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills in ELA needed for success in future coursework.

**Level 1: Minimal**—The student demonstrates minimal grade-level knowledge and skills and shows a limited understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills in ELA needed for success in future coursework.

Policymakers can use the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in ELA results to help describe statewide student performance and to help focus state resources to best impact student outcomes.

Educators can use results, along with information from interim assessments, to help identify performance patterns among their students and to inform decisions about curriculum investments and district supports.

Families and students can use results to support conversations with students' teachers about opportunities for their students to benefit from additional support.