

# Smarter Balanced Assessments

Parent Information

# Smarter Balanced Assessment

- Aligned with Nevada Academic Content Standards, which were developed from the nationally recognized Common Core State Standards.
- New assessment will adapt to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents better information to help students succeed.

# The Assessment Challenge

How do we get from here...

Common Core  
State Standards  
specify K-12  
expectations for  
college and  
career readiness

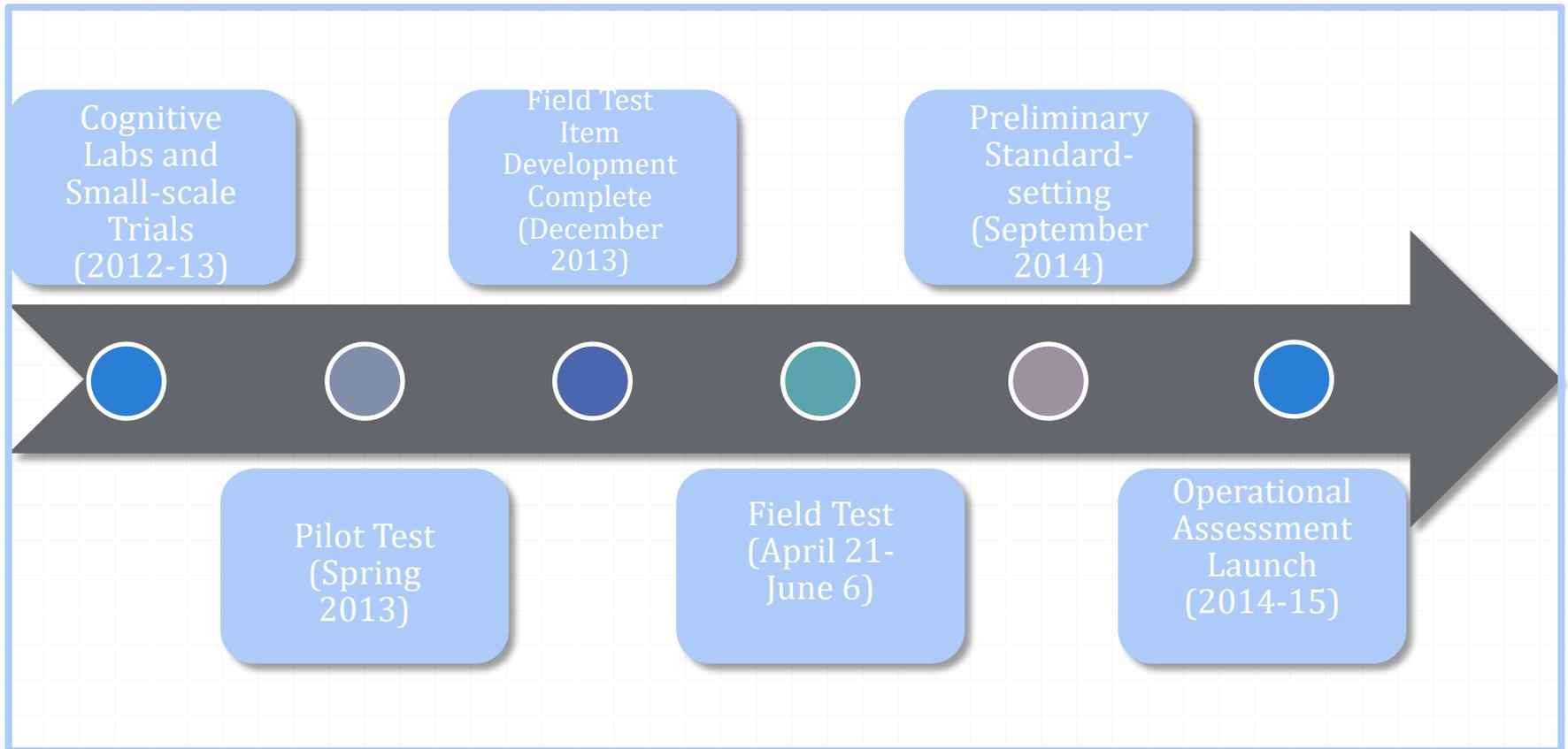


...to here?

All students  
leave high school  
college and  
career ready

...and what can an  
assessment system  
do to help?

# Assessment Development



# English Language Arts -Literacy

- Assessments are composed of reading, writing, listening, and research.
- Six Shifts for English Language Arts
  - Increased text complexity
  - Evidence – based writing (writing arguments)
  - Academic vocabulary
  - Reading nonfiction
  - Reading and writing across content areas
  - Text-referenced reading response (close reading)

# SBAC Administration

## o **Computer Adaptive**

- o Students will be assessed in reading, listening, and responding
- o Questions are based on student responses
- o Computer program adjusts the difficulty of the questions throughout the assessment

## o **Performance Task**

- o Reading, writing, and critical thinking
- o Students will be presented an issue, given three sources, and are to take notes.
- o Student will write an argumentative essay using the notes and research that he/she has developed.

# Mathematics

- SBAC assesses three components of rigor
  - Conceptual knowledge
  - Fluency
  - Ability to apply knowledge and skills
- Three shifts in Math
  - Focus: emphasis is placed on the standards target
  - Coherence: think across grades, and link to major topics
  - Rigor: in major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application

# SBAC Math Administration

- 2 hour non-performance section of test, including multiple choice and short answer questions.
  - Designed so students have learned “conceptually” rather than “memorize procedures.”
- 2.5 hour performance assessment, with a 30 minute in-class teacher led whole class activity
  - Designed to measure how well students can apply knowledge and skill.

# How do I help my child?

- Read, fiction and non-fiction
  - Learn about the world
  - Pick challenging material
  - Talk about what was read
  - Write about what was read
  - Focus on vocabulary
- Math practice
  - Build skills and knowledge base
  - Practice facts for accuracy and speed
  - Use math to solve real-world problems

# Safeguarding Student Privacy

- States endorsed principle that they retain control of student data
  - Smarter Balanced will share no student-level information with the federal government
  - Smarter Balanced will not sell student data
  - PARCC and Smarter Balanced chiefs recently sent letter to Secretary Duncan affirming that consortia will not change state reporting practices
- *Smarter Balanced will NOT require states to report student names or dates of birth*

# Learn More and Stay Engaged

For More Information, Visit:

<http://www.ccsd.net/divisions/assessment-accountability-research-school-improvement-division/assessment>

and

[http://www.doe.nv.gov/Smarter\\_Balanced\\_Assessment\\_Consortium\\_SBAC/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Smarter_Balanced_Assessment_Consortium_SBAC/)

To Experience the Assessment Yourself, Take the Practice or Training Test:  
[SmarterBalanced.org/practice-test/](http://SmarterBalanced.org/practice-test/)

