

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 1SB: Embedded Universal Tools

Universal Tool	Description
Breaks	The number of items per session can be flexibly defined based on the student's need. Breaks of more than 20 minutes will prevent the student from returning to items already attempted by the student. There is no limit on the number of breaks that a student might be given. The use of this universal tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment. See <i>Section 4.5 Testing Time and Recommended Order of Administration</i> of the Test Administration Manual for guidance on estimated testing times for online assessments.
Calculator (for calculator-allowed items only) (See Non-embedded Accommodations for students who cannot use the embedded calculator)	An embedded on-screen digital calculator can be accessed for calculator-allowed items when students click on the calculator button. This tool is available only with the specific items for which the Smarter Balanced Item Specifications indicated that it would be appropriate. When the embedded calculator, as presented for all students, is not appropriate for a student (for example, for a student who is blind), the student may use the calculator offered with assistive technology devices (such as a talking calculator or a braille calculator).
Digital notepad	This tool is used for making notes about an item. The digital notepad is item-specific and is available through the end of the test segment. Notes are not saved when the student moves on to the next segment or after a break of more than 20 minutes.
English Dictionary (for ELA-performance task full writes)	An English dictionary may be available for the full write portion of an ELA performance task, pending contractual discussions. A full write is the second part of a performance task. The use of this universal tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
English glossary	Grade- and context-appropriate definitions of specific construct-irrelevant terms are shown in English on the screen via a pop-up window. The student can access the embedded glossary by clicking on any of the pre-selected terms. The use of this Universal Tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Expandable passages	Each passage or stimulus can be expanded so that it takes up a larger portion of the screen.
Global notes (for ELA performance tasks)	Global notes is a notepad that is available for ELA performance tasks in which students complete a full write. A full write is the second part of a performance task. The student clicks on the notepad icon for the notepad to appear. During the ELA performance tasks, the notes are retained from segment to segment so that the student may go back to the notes even though the student is not able to go back to specific items in the previous segment.
Highlighter	A digital tool for marking desired text, item questions, item answers, or parts of these with a color. Highlighted text remains available throughout each test segment.
Keyboard navigation	Navigation throughout text can be accomplished by using a keyboard.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 1 SB: Embedded Universal Tools

Universal Tool	Description
Mark for review	Allows students to flag items for future review during the assessment. Markings are not saved when the student moves on to the next segment or after a break of more than 20 minutes.
Math tools	These digital tools (i.e., embedded ruler, embedded protractor) are used for measurements related to math items. They are available only with the specific items for which the <i>Smarter Balanced Item Specifications</i> indicate that one or more of these tools would be appropriate.
Spell check (for ELA items)	Writing tool for checking the spelling of words in student-generated responses. Spell check only gives an indication that a word is misspelled; it does not provide the correct spelling. This tool is available only with the specific items for which the Smarter Balanced Item Specifications indicated that it would be appropriate. Spell check is bundled with other embedded writing tools for all performance task full writes (planning, drafting, revising, and editing). A full write is the second part of a performance task.
Strikethrough	Allows users to cross out answer options. If an answer option is an image, a strikethrough line will not appear, but the image will be grayed out.
Writing tools	Selected writing tools (i.e., bold, italic, bullets, undo/redo) are available for all student-generated responses. (Also see spell check.)
Zoom	A tool for making text or other graphics in a window or frame appear larger on the screen. The default font size for all tests is 14 pt. The student can make text and graphics larger by clicking the <i>Zoom In</i> button. The student can click the <i>Zoom Out</i> button to return to the default or smaller print size. When using the zoom feature, the student only changes the size of text and graphics on the current screen. The use of this Universal Tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 2 SB: Non-embedded Universal Tools

Universal Tool	Description
Breaks	Breaks may be given at predetermined intervals or after completion of sections of the assessment for students taking a paper-based test. Sometimes students are allowed to take breaks when individually needed to reduce cognitive fatigue when they experience heavy assessment demands. The use of this universal tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
English Dictionary (for ELA-performance task full writes)	An English dictionary can be provided for the full write portion of an ELA performance task. A full write is the second part of a performance task. The use of this universal tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Scratch paper	Scratch paper to make notes, write computations, or record responses may be made available. Only plain paper or lined paper is appropriate for ELA. Graph paper is required beginning in sixth grade and can be used on all math assessments. A student can use an assistive technology device for scratch paper as long as the device is certified. ¹ CAT: All scratch paper must be collected and securely destroyed at the end of each CAT assessment session to maintain test security. Performance Tasks: For mathematics and ELA performance tasks, if a student needs to take the performance task in more than one session, scratch paper may be collected at the end of each session, securely stored, and made available to the student at the next performance task testing session. Once the student completes the performance task, the scratch paper must be collected and securely destroyed to maintain test security.
Thesaurus (for ELA-performance task full writes)	A thesaurus contains synonyms of terms while a student interacts with text included in the assessment. A full write is the second part of a performance task. The use of this universal tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

¹ Smarter Balanced is working closely with our test administration platform vendor to create a process through which assistive technology devices can be certified. Certification ensures that the device functions properly and appropriately addresses test security.

Table 3 SB: Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Changing the default print size	To increase the default print size of the entire test (from 1.5X to 3.0X default size), the print size must be set for the student in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) or set by the test administrator prior to the start of the test.	

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 3 SB: Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Color contrast	Enable students to adjust screen background or font color, based on student needs or preferences. This may include reversing the colors for the entire interface or choosing the color of font and background.	Students with attention difficulties may need this support for viewing test content. It also may be needed by some students with visual impairments or other print disabilities (including learning disabilities). Choice of colors should be informed by evidence that color selections meet the student’s needs.

Table 3 SB: Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Masking	Masking involves blocking off content that is not of immediate need or that may be distracting to the student. Students are able to focus their attention on a specific part of a test item by masking.	Students with attention difficulties may need to mask content not of immediate need or that may be distracting during the assessment. This support also may be needed by students with print disabilities (including learning disabilities) or visual impairments. Masking allows students to hide and reveal individual answer options, as well as all navigational buttons and menus.
Text-to-speech (for math items and ELA items, not for reading passages) ¹ (See Embedded Accommodations for ELA Reading passages)	Text is read aloud to the student via embedded text-to-speech technology. The student is able to control the speed as well as raise or lower the volume of the voice via a volume control.	Students who are struggling readers may need assistance accessing the assessment by having all or portions of the assessment read aloud. This support also may be needed by students with reading-related disabilities, or by students who are blind and do not yet have adequate braille skills. This support will likely be confusing and may impede the performance of students who do not regularly have the support during instruction. Students who use text-to-speech will need headphones unless tested individually in a separate setting.
Translated test directions (for math items)	Translation of test directions is a language support available prior to beginning the actual	Students who have limited English language skills can use the translated directions support. This support

¹ See Embedded Accommodations for guidelines on the use of Text-to-speech for ELA passages.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 3 SB: Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
	test items. Students can see test directions in another language.	should only be used for students who are proficient readers in the other language and not proficient in English.
Translations (glossaries) (for math items)	Translated glossaries are a language support. The translated glossaries are provided for selected construct-irrelevant terms for math. Translations for these terms appear on the computer screen when students click on them. Students with the language glossary setting enabled can view the translated glossary. Students can also select the audio icon next to the glossary term and listen to the audio recording of the glossary.	Students who have limited English language skills (whether or not designated as English Language Learners (ELLs) or ELLs with disabilities) can use the translation glossary for specific items. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 3 SB: Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Translations (stacked) (for math items)	Stacked translations are a language support. Stacked translations are available for some students; stacked translations provide the full translation of each test item above the original item in English.	For students whose primary language is not English and who use dual language supports in the classroom, use of the stacked (dual language) translation may be appropriate. Students participate in the assessment regardless of the language. This support will increase reading load and cognitive load. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Turn off any universal tools	Disabling any universal tools that might be distracting or that students do not need to use, or are unable to use.	Students who are easily distracted (whether or not designated as having attention difficulties or disabilities) may be overwhelmed by some of the universal tools. Knowing which specific tools may be distracting is important for determining which tools to turn off.

Table 4 SB: Non-embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Bilingual dictionary (for ELA-performance task full writes)	A bilingual/dual language word-to-word dictionary is a language support. A bilingual/dual language word-to-word dictionary can be provided for the full write portion of an ELA performance task. A full write is the second part of a performance task.	For students whose primary language is not English and who use dual language supports in the classroom, use of a bilingual/dual language word-to-word dictionary may be appropriate. Students participate in the assessment regardless of the language. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Color contrast	Test content of online items may be printed with different colors.	Students with attention difficulties may need this support for viewing the test when digitally-provided color contrasts do not meet their needs. Some students with visual impairments or other print disabilities (including learning disabilities) also may need this support. Choice of colors should be informed by evidence of those colors that meet the student's needs.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 4 SB: Non-embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Color overlays	Color transparencies are placed over a paper-based assessment.	Students with attention difficulties may need this support to view test content. This support also may be needed by some students with visual impairments or other print disabilities (including learning disabilities). Choice of color should be informed by evidence of those colors that meet the student's needs.
Magnification	The size of specific areas of the screen (e.g., text, formulas, tables, graphics, and navigation buttons) may be adjusted by the student with an assistive technology device. Magnification allows increasing the size to a level not provided for by the Zoom universal tool.	Students used to viewing enlarged text or graphics, or navigation buttons may need magnification to comfortably view content. This support also may meet the needs of students with visual impairments and other print disabilities. The use of this designated support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Noise buffers (State, district, or school provided)	Ear mufflers, white noise, and/or other equipment used to block external sounds.	Student (not groups of students) wears equipment to reduce environmental noises. Students may have these testing variations if regularly used in the classroom. Students who use noise buffers will need headphones unless tested individually in a separate setting.
Read aloud (for math items and ELA items, not for reading passages) (See Non-embedded Accommodations for ELA Reading passages)	Text is read aloud to the student by a trained and qualified human reader who follows the administration guidelines provided in the <u>Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader for Smarter Balanced Assessments</u> . All or portions of the content may be read aloud.	Students who are struggling readers may need assistance accessing the assessment by having all or portions of the assessment read aloud. This support also may be needed by students with reading-related disabilities, or by students who are blind and do not yet have adequate braille skills. If not used regularly during instruction, this support is likely to be confusing and may impede the performance on assessments. Readers should be provided to students on an individual basis – not to a group of students. A student should have the option of asking a reader to slow down or

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 4 SB: Non-embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
		repeat text. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 4 SB: Non-embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
Scribe (for ELA non-writing items and math items) ² (See Accommodations for Writing)	Students dictate their responses to a human who records verbatim what they dictate. The scribe must be trained and qualified, and must follow the administration guidelines provided in the <i>Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual</i> .	Students who have documented significant motor or processing difficulties, or who have had a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm) that make it difficult to produce responses may need to dictate their responses to a human, who then records the students' responses verbatim. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Separate setting	Test location is altered so that the student is tested in a setting different from that made available for most students.	Students who are easily distracted (or may distract others) in the presence of other students, for example, may need an alternate location to be able to take the assessment. The separate setting may be in a different room that allows them to work individually or among a smaller group, or in the same room but in a specific location (for example, away from windows, doors, or pencil sharpeners, in a study carrel, near the teacher's desk, or in the front of a classroom). Some students may benefit from being in an environment that allows for movement, such as being able to walk around. In some instances, students may need to interact with instructional or test content outside of school, such as in a hospital or their home. A specific adult, trained in a manner consistent with the TAM, can act as test proctor (test administrator) when student requires it.
Translated test directions	PDF of directions translated in each of the languages currently supported. Bilingual adult can read to student.	Students who have limited English language skills (whether or not designated as ELLs or ELLs with disabilities) can use the translated test directions. In addition, a biliterate adult trained in the test

² See Accommodations for use of Scribe for Writing items

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 4 SB: Non-embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Description	Recommendations for Use
		administration manual can read the test directions to the student. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.
Translations (glossaries) (for math items)	Translated glossaries are a language support. Translated glossaries are provided for selected construct-irrelevant terms for math. Glossary terms are listed by item and include the English term and its translated equivalent. Students with the language glossary setting enabled can view the translated glossary. Students can also select the audio icon next to the glossary term and listen to the audio recording of the glossary.	Students who have limited English language skills can use the translation glossary for specific items. The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

Table 5 SB: Embedded Accommodations

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
American Sign Language (ASL) (for ELA Listening items and math items) (A223)	Test content is translated into ASL video. ASL human signer and the signed test content are viewed on the same screen. Students may view portions of the ASL video as often as needed.	Some students who are deaf or hard of hearing and who typically use ASL may need this accommodation when accessing text-based content in the assessment. The use of this accommodation may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment. For many students who are deaf or hard of hearing, viewing signs is the only way to access information presented orally. It is important to note, however, that some students who are hard of hearing will be able to listen to information presented orally if provided with appropriate amplification and a setting in which extraneous sounds do not interfere with clear presentation of the audio presentation in a listening test.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Braille(A218)	A raised-dot code that individuals read with the fingertips. Graphic material (e.g., maps, charts, graphs, diagrams, and illustrations) is presented in a raised format (paper or thermoform). Contracted and non-contracted braille is available; Nemeth code is available for math.	Students with visual impairments may read text via braille. Tactile overlays and graphics also may be used to assist the student in accessing content through touch. Refreshable braille is available only for ELA because Nemeth Code is not available via refreshable braille. For math, braille will be presented via embosser; embosser-created braille can be used for ELA also. The type of braille presented to the student (contracted or non-contracted) is set in TIDE. The use of this accommodation may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 5 SB: Embedded Accommodations

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Closed captioning (for ELA listening items) (A224)	Printed text that appears on the computer screen as audio materials are presented.	Students who are deaf or hard of hearing and who typically access information presented via audio by reading words that appear in synchrony with the audio presentation may need this support to access audio content. For many students who are deaf or hard of hearing, viewing words (sometimes in combination with reading lips and ASL) is how they access information presented orally. It is important to note, however, that some students who are hard of hearing will be able to listen to information presented orally if provided with appropriate amplification and a setting in which extraneous sounds do not interfere with clear presentation of the audio presentation in a listening test.
Text-to-speech (for ELA reading passages) (A225)	Text is read aloud to the student via embedded text-to-speech technology. The student is able to control the speed as well as raise or lower the volume of the voice via a volume control.	<p>This accommodation is appropriate for a very small number of students (estimated to be approximately 1-2% of students with disabilities participating in a general assessment).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students in <u>grades 3 - 5</u>, text-to-speech will not be an available accommodation. Content experts agree that this accommodation should not be provided during these grades because it would compromise the construct being measured. • For students in <u>grades 6 - 8 and 11</u>, text-to-speech is available as an accommodation for students whose need is documented in an IEP or 504 plan. <p>Reports can be run to indicate the percent of students who had access to text-to-speech on reading test passages.</p> <p>Students who use text-to-speech will need headphones unless tested individually in a separate setting.</p>

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 6 SB: Non-embedded Accommodations

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Abacus (A601)	This tool may be used in place of scratch paper for students who typically use an abacus.	Some students with visual impairments who typically use an abacus may use an abacus in place of using scratch paper.
Alternate response options (A302)	Alternate response options include but are not limited to adapted keyboards, large keyboards, StickyKeys, MouseKeys, FilterKeys, adapted mouse, touch screen, head wand, and switches.	Students with some physical disabilities (including both fine motor and gross motor skills) may need to use the alternate response options accommodation. Some alternate response options are external devices that must be plugged in and be compatible with the assessment delivery platform.
Calculator (A602) (for calculator allowed items only)	A non-embedded calculator for students needing a special calculator, such as a braille calculator or a talking calculator, currently unavailable within the assessment platform.	Students with visual impairments who are unable to use the embedded calculator for calculator-allowed items will be able to use the calculator that they typically use, such as a braille calculator or a talking calculator. Test administrators should ensure that the calculator is available only for designated calculator items.
Multiplication Table (grade 4 and above math items) (A603)	A paper-based single digit (1-9) multiplication table will be available from Smarter Balanced for reference.	For students with a documented and persistent calculation disability (i.e., dyscalculia).
Print on demand (A226)	Paper copies of either passages/stimuli and/or items are printed for students. For those students needing a paper copy of a passage or stimulus, permission for the students to request printing must first be set in TIDE.	Some students with disabilities may need paper copies of either passages/stimuli and/or items. A very small percentage of students should need this accommodation. The use of this accommodation may result in the student needing additional time to complete the assessment.

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 6 SB: Non-embedded Accommodations

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
<p>Read aloud (for ELA Reading passages, grades 6-8 and 11; blind students in grades 3-8 and 11 who do not yet have adequate braille skills) (A227)</p>	<p>Text is read aloud to the student by a trained and qualified human reader who follows the administration guidelines provided in the <i>Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual</i>. All or portions of the content may be read aloud.</p>	<p>This accommodation is appropriate for a very small number of students (estimated to be approximately 1-2% of students with disabilities participating in a general assessment).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For students in grades 3 - 5</u>, read aloud will not be an available accommodation. Content experts agree that this accommodation should not be provided during these grades because it would compromise the construct being measured. • <u>For students in grades 6 – 8 and 11</u>, read aloud is available as an accommodation for students whose need is documented in an IEP or 504 plan. <p>Reports can be run to indicate the percent of students who had access to read aloud on reading test passages.</p> <p>Readers should be provided to students on an individual basis – not to a group of students. A student should have the option of asking a reader to slow down or repeat text.</p>
<p>Scribe (See Designated Supports for math and non-writing ELA) (A303)</p>	<p>Students dictate their responses to a human who records verbatim what they dictate. The scribe must be trained and qualified, and must follow the administration guidelines provided in the <i>Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual</i>.</p>	<p>Students who have documented significant motor or processing difficulties, or who have had a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm) that makes it difficult to produce responses may need to dictate their responses to a human, who then records the students' responses verbatim. The use of this accommodation may result in the student needing overall additional time to complete the assessment. For many of these students, dictating to a human scribe is the only way to demonstrate their composition skills. It is important that these students be able to develop planning notes via the human scribe, and to view what they produce while composing via dictation to the scribe.</p>

Accessibility Supports for Smarter Balanced Assessments

Table 6 SB: Non-embedded Accommodations

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Speech-to-text (A311)	Voice recognition allows students to use their voices as input devices to the computer, to dictate responses or give commands (e.g., opening application programs, pulling down menus, and saving work). Voice recognition software generally can recognize speech up to 160 words per minute. Students may use their own assistive technology devices.	Students who have motor or processing disabilities (such as dyslexia) or who have had a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm) that make it difficult to produce text or commands using computer keys may need alternative ways to work with computers. Students will need to be familiar with the software, and have had many opportunities to use it prior to testing. Speech-to-text software requires that the student go back through all generated text to correct errors in transcription, including use of writing conventions; thus, prior experience with this accommodation is essential. If students use their own assistive technology devices, all assessment content should be deleted from these devices after the test for security purposes. For many of these students, using voice recognition software is the only way to demonstrate their composition skills. Still, use of speech-to-text does require that students know writing conventions and that they have the review and editing skills required of students who enter text via the computer keyboard. It is important that students who use speech-to-text also be able to develop planning notes via speech-to-text, and to view what they produce while composing via speech-to-text.

Accessibility Supports for OAKS Science and Social Sciences Assessments

Table 1 OAKS: Embedded Universal Tools

Universal Tool	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The embedded calculator is available for students to click on (access) in the testing system. Students at grade 5 are allowed to use a four-function calculator. Scientific calculators are recommended for use at grade 8 and high school. Students are allowed to use either the embedded calculator provided in the testing environment and/or one that they are familiar with and use on a regular basis (see Table 2 OAKS: Non-embedded universal tools).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color overlay (blue or yellow) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tool to improve focus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A digital tool for marking desired text, item questions, item answers, or parts of these with a color. Highlighted text remains available throughout each test segment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masking involves blocking off content that is not of immediate need or that may be distracting to the student. Students are able to focus their attention on a specific part of a test item by masking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic Table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For OAKS Science Only : All students are able to access the state approved online Periodic Table of the Elements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text-to-Speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text is read aloud to the student via embedded text-to-speech technology. The student is able to control the speed as well as raise or lower the volume of the voice via a volume control. • Districts may assign text-to-speech for individual students either through TIDE or through the TA Approval screen. Before testing begins, TAs must ensure that students receiving text-to-speech have headsets that are functioning properly to ensure that it does not interfere with other students who are testing. • For Science only: Text-to-speech is also available in Spanish for students taking the English-Spanish side-by-side test. Note: the Spanish text-to-speech requires installation of a separate Spanish voice pack. Instructions are included in the TIDE User Guide, available at http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=391.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tool for making text or other graphics in a window or frame appear larger on the screen. The default font size for all tests is 14 pt. The student can make text and graphics larger by clicking the Zoom In button. The student can click the Zoom Out button to return to the default or smaller print size. When using the zoom feature, the student only changes the size of text and graphics on the current screen. The use of this universal tool may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment. Note: To increase the default print size of the entire test (from 1.5X to 3.0X default size), the print size must be set for the student in the Test