Frequently Asked Questions: Training Test

1. What is the purpose of the Smarter Balanced training test?
The purpose of the Smarter Balanced training test is to give students and teachers an opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features that will be used in the Smarter Balanced assessments.

2. Do students need to be registered before they can take the training test?
No. If student information has not yet been entered into TIDE, a student can still take the training test by logging in as a guest.

3. What are the grades and content areas for the training test?
The training test is offered by grade band. There are at least 14-15 items within each grade band (7 in ELA and 8-9 in math). The grade bands are grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and high school.

4. Will the training test include examples of all item types including performance tasks?
The training test will not include any performance tasks or classroom activities but will include a wide range of item types. The training test also will include three new item types: matching tables, ELA and math; table fill-in for math, and evidence-based selected response items in ELA. These item types currently are not included in the practice test.

5. Will the training test provide the same user interface as the field test?
Yes.

6. What accommodations will be available on the training test?
The training test will offer the all of the universal tools, designated supports and accommodations that the field test offers. For more information about accessibility and accommodations, please visit http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf

7. Do Test Administrators need to establish a TIDE account before administering the training test?
Students can take the training test in a proctored test session set up by a test administrator or as guests outside of a proctored test session. Test administrators (TAs) must have an account in TIDE to set up a proctored test session. TAs will use the same username and password to set up the proctored test session as they use to log into TIDE. We encourage TAs to practice setting up a proctored test session using the training test so they will have experience with how to do this before administering the field tests. The Test Administrator User Guide, available at http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources/, has directions for setting up a proctored test session.

8. Are scores available from the training test?
The purpose of the training test is to give students and test administrators experience with using the software. Responses are not scored.

9. Do students need to use the secure browser to take the training test?
No. The secure browser does have a link to the training test so that students can use the secure browser. However, students also can use recent versions of the Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer,
Chrome, or Safari browsers to take the training test, or they can use the native browsers built into iPads and Android tablets. Note that the text-to-speech functionality is available only when using the secure browser.

Please click on this link to see the most up-to-date listing of supported browsers for the Practice Test and Training Test. http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/