

---

## System Information

### **Q. What is the portal for?**

A. This portal acts as the gateway to all your assessment systems. The portal provides links and resources to help students and educators take full advantage of AIR systems.

### **Q. What is TIDE?**

A. TIDE stands for “Test Information Distribution Engine”. The TIDE system provides administrators with the tools to add and manage users and students participating in the ELA and Math Smarter Balanced assessments.

### **Q. What is TDS?**

A. TDS stands for “Test Delivery System”. It is the online testing system that will be used for the practice tests, training tests, optional interim assessments and the summative assessments.

### **Q. What type of calculators will be available in the Secure Browser?**

A. Calculators are not available at grades 3 through 5. For grades 6 through 11, the calculator will vary by grade as follows: Grade 6 - Basic Calculators Grades 7 and 8 - Scientific Calculators Grades 9 through 11 - Scientific, Graphic and Regression Calculators

## Test Administration

### **Q. How many times can my students take the Smarter Balanced assessments?**

A. The interim assessments will be available from January 27-February 27. Students will have two opportunities to take the Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) and two opportunities to take the Interim Assessment Block (IAB). Students will have one opportunity to take the Smarter Balanced Summative assessment. The Summative assessment opens on March 10, 2015.

### **Q. What is the purpose of the Practice and Training Test**

A. 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 summative assessments.