

ICAs as Part of an Early Detection System

Using Interim Comprehensive Assessments in Grades 9 and 10



The Smarter Balanced assessment system is a valid, fair, and reliable approach to student assessment that provides educators, students, and parents meaningful results with actionable data to help students succeed.

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)—one component of the assessment system—allow teachers to check student progress toward college and career readiness throughout the year. With additional optional cut scores, **educators can now use ICAs for students enrolled in grade 9 and 10 to help detect even earlier which students might need additional instructional support** prior to leaving high school.

ICAs, which include the full array of Smarter Balanced accessibility resources, test the same content and report scores on the same scale as the summative assessments. They are flexible, optional assessments that can be used at the discretion of schools and districts.

English Language Arts/Literacy Cut Scores

Grade	Scale Score Cut between Levels 1 and 2	Scale Score Cut between Levels 2 and 3	Scale Score Cut between Levels 3 and 4
9	2489	2571	2672
10	2491	2577	2678

Mathematics Cut Scores

Grade	Scale Score Cut between Levels 1 and 2	Scale Score Cut between Levels 2 and 3	Scale Score Cut between Levels 3 and 4
9	2517	2601	2676
10	2533	2614	2697

“The results give us so much information about how well students are going to be prepared. In some cases, our kids that are in school right now, my own included, are going to be doing jobs in this world that we don’t even imagine.”

—Instructional Coordinator, CA

Key Facts about ICAs

- ✔ Most questions can be machine scored. Some items, such as constructed-response items and performance tasks, need to be scored locally by teachers. Supports are available to aid teachers for handscoring.
- ✔ Educators can access the test questions and their students’ responses to the test questions for instructional purposes.
- ✔ K–12 educators and representatives from higher education reviewed and recommended the cut scores for grades 9 and 10.