



## Maintain Smarter Balanced’s position as a leader in innovative assessment design

Smarter Balanced member states created the Consortium because they were committed to innovation and creating a next-generation assessment that maximized new research about student learning and new possibilities with technology—and this commitment to innovation will continue to be a priority moving forward. Even as Smarter Balanced creates the best summative assessment and associated teaching tools for today’s needs in schools, it will continue to anticipate and support evolving policymaker and educator needs. Member states are interested in exploring a range of innovations, including how Smarter Balanced tools could contribute to a more nuanced understanding of students’ career readiness and how its summative assessment could support a true “competency-based education” system; a working group will help further research, refine and prioritize these ideas to guide investments moving forward.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES	KEY ACTIVITIES
<p><b>5a)</b> Allocate and prioritize resources for ongoing research and development for new, innovative assessments that build on Smarter Balanced’s core competence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a member taskforce to guide Smarter Balanced’s research and development agenda and assess the viability of new proposed assessments (e.g. applied work setting assessments, curriculum-embedded assessments)</li> <li>• Secure and protect resources for ongoing research and development in new assessment areas, including interim and summative assessments and their accompanying Digital Library resources</li> </ul>
<p><b>5b)</b> Conduct a feasibility analysis on the development of a competency-based assessment with the potential to certify student-acquired bodies of ELA and math knowledge portable to various post-secondary contexts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a member taskforce to make recommendations on the viability, timeline, investments and overall strategy for supporting states pursuing a shift towards competency-based learning</li> <li>• Conduct a trial and subsequent pilot phase to test the design of a competency-based assessment drawing from Smarter Balanced’s existing assessment and potentially building new items</li> </ul>