



Q&A: College Admission Collaboration RFP

For more than a year, Consortium members have discussed how to improve the high school assessment to better meet the needs of students and educators. One of those ways is to collaborate with college admission test providers. We are releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify potential options.

Why are we sending out this RFP?

Some Consortium members are concerned that the Smarter Balanced high school test competes for time with other activities, such as college admission testing. By proactively collaborating with college admission test providers, we can thoughtfully explore ways to strengthen our value for:

- *students* planning on attending college or participating in postsecondary career education or training,
- *institutions* seeking additional indicators of college readiness, and
- *members* seeking to support students in the college admission process while also providing educators with standards-based student achievement data.

Does this mean you're replacing the Smarter Balanced high school assessment?

No. This is an addition to what we already offer. Our goal is that this process yields additional options for members.

Does this mean colleges and universities must change their placement policies?

No.

What is the estimated RFP timeline?

We expect responses to the RFP by late March 2017 and that members will participate in the selection of a winning proposal, or proposals, by May 2017.

If approved, how will this project be funded?

This depends on the solution the Consortium elects to adopt. Options include:

- Smarter Balanced pays college admission test providers.
- College admission test providers pay Smarter Balanced.
- College admission test providers make available a master services price list that may be used by states, districts schools or students.

These options are not mutually exclusive. We expect that different activities may require different funding solutions.

With whom can I share the RFP?

This RFP is being release publicly through the University of California system. You may share it with any interested parties.

Who is eligible to respond to this RFP?

This RFP is open to any entity that provides an existing test used for college admission by at least 200 colleges and universities in the United States.

What role do members have in this process?

Smarter Balanced members edited the RFP in December 2016 and will participate in the review and scoring of vendor responses to the RFP.