**CCSS Assessment Practice Items**

**5/31/13**

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium released their practice tests today. The practice tests were designed to be used by a variety of stakeholders to help increase understanding of the new assessment content and format. Although the final version of the tests will employ computer adaptive technology, the practice tests are a fixed form model. The practice tests can be accessed by visiting the [Smarter Balanced Website](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/) and clicking on the hyperlink [Explore the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/default.html). Acceptable browsers for downloading the test include Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Apple Safari. Once the tests are downloaded, click through the pre-filled in screens. You will be prompted to select the grade level (3-11) and test subject area s for the grade level, Math, ELA Performance Tasks or ELA.

Once your test is loaded, you can begin testing. The tools are easy to use and if there is something that you do not understand the global menu can be accessed to answer question which you may have. The questions which were reviewed were all multistep questions in mathematics. The ELA performance practice items required reading of multiple passages with questions that required referring back to the text; these items also contained substantive writing requirements. The ELA test was also easy to use that required reading of text and answering multiple questions in reference to the text that was read. You can return to the login screen and select different grade levels and different tests to further explore the content and format of the SBAC assessments. Scoring keys for the practice tests will be made available on July 1, 2013.

Although the Partnership of Readiness for Assessing College and Careers (PARCC) has not released a practice test to date, they do have a limited bank of sample items and task prototypes that were released in December of 2012. These items can be accessed by visiting the [PARCC website](http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes) then selecting the grade level and subject area sample items on the left sidebar. The ELA/Literacy items are limited to sample questions and passages and some of the math items will redirect you to the Dana Center which houses the PARCC Prototyping project. Although these items are a bit more difficult to access, the items are useful in understanding how the content and format of the assessments related to the common core state standards are a new generation of assessments. Additional prototypes and rubrics are scheduled to be released by summer 2013.