



Talking Points/Q&A

What is Tools for Teachers?

Tools for Teachers is Smarter Balanced's new home for formative assessment supports. It is an easy-to-use website featuring lessons and activities created by educators to save time with lesson planning, enhance instruction, and prepare students for college or a career.

Does Tools for Teachers replace the Digital Library? As of May 2020, the Digital Library is decommissioned. Tools for Teachers is Smarter Balanced's new home for formative assessment supports. It was built using feedback and input from hundreds of teachers.

What is distinctive about Tools for Teachers?

Tools for Teachers was created in collaboration with hundreds of educators and is the center for high-quality instructional support. It was developed with a commitment to formative assessment and accessibility. The site makes it easy for educators to find formative assessment and accessibility instructional strategies to help teachers meet students' needs.

How does Tools for Teachers support educators and teachers?

Tools for Teachers provides a variety of supports for teachers. It includes lessons and strategies that can help teachers support student learning. It provides meaningful descriptions of student performance progressions to help teachers monitor progress. Tools for Teachers also links to sample questions and additional Smarter Balanced tools to dive deeper into sample test questions.

Who has access to Tools for Teachers?

Access to Tools for Teachers is provided to K-12 public school educators in most Smarter Balanced states. If you need additional support, contact your state assessment office.

How does Tools for Teachers connect to other resources from Smarter Balanced?

Tools for Teachers is at the center of the Smarter Balanced ecosystem, which supports educators, and links to additional Smarter Balanced websites and applications resources to facilitate seamless access to relevant content. across other websites and applications.

Can Tools for Teachers be used for remote teaching and distance learning?

Yes. While most lesson plans are written for in-person learning, all lessons can be adapted by teachers for secure virtual learning platforms. Interim assessments can be administered remotely to help educators assess student understanding in a distanced setting.