Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Washington Comprehensive
Assessment Program

Practice and Training Test Guidance

ELA, Math and Science

Table of Contents

Practice and Training Test Guidance

To provide Washington state students the best online testing experience, educators should become familiar with the practice and training tests available for Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics assessments, and the training tests available for the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS).

Practice and Training Tests

The primary purpose of the practice and training tests is to familiarize users with the system, functionality, and question types. Practice and training tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction; they are designed to allow students, parents, and teachers practice before taking the state assessments. Both resources can be accessed through the WCAP portal.

The secondary purpose of the practice and training tests is to allow students to become familiar with the embedded testing tools enabled for them in TIDE (i.e., the designated supports or accommodations). While using these tools in the practice and training tests, students can become familiar with how the tools function, and educators can ensure that the student testing device functions well with the tools. Please note that the embedded accommodation of speech-to-text can only be practiced using the secure practice and training tests mentioned in this document.

Training Tests

Training tests are available for the ELA, mathematics, and science tests. Training tests offer a small sample of questions within a grade band. The purpose of the training tests is to help students, teachers, and parents become familiar with the various item types, tools, and navigation used in the online testing system.

Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics

Training tests are available in grade bands: 3–5, 6–8, and high school. Users can access the _Mathematics Online Training Test Activities_ document on the OSPI website. This document includes activities that describe some ways students can practice the tools for each question type.

Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science

Training tests are available for grades 5, 8, and 11. Users can access the science _Training Test Lesson Plans_ on the OSPI website. These documents include information on accessing the training tests as well as answer keys and alignment information for each question on the science training tests.

Suggested Options for Training with your Students

Whole class

Take students through the training test using a projector/computer set-up. Provide time for questions and comments. Navigate forward and backward as needed. Depending on the number of questions and discussion, this activity can be completed in about 20–30 minutes in a classroom with one computer and a projector.

Individual

Allow students time to try out the training test. This will take about 20–30 minutes and can be done with individual or paired students at a computer. Allow time afterward for student questions and comments.

Practice Tests

Practice tests are available for ELA and mathematics tests. The purpose of the practice test is to allow teachers, students, and parents to experience a Smarter Balanced online test. Practice tests are similar in format and structure to the actual test and include about 30 questions. Students should practice answering the questions, however, answers are not scored or saved.

<u>Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics</u>

Practice tests are available for each tested grade (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and high school). The practice tests are similar in format and structure to the summative Smarter Balanced ELA and math assessments. They include a CAT-like section (labeled "Practice Test" because it is not actually adaptive) and a Performance Task (labeled "Practice Performance Task"). These tests provide a broad coverage of claims, a range of grade-specific test questions, and a breadth of difficulty levels across items. Student responses are not saved or scored.

The practice tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction. Smarter Balanced has produced Practice Test Scoring Guides which provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring information.

Suggested Options for Practice with your Students

<u>Whole Class</u>

Take students through the practice test or Performance Task using a projector/computer set-up. Be sure to demonstrate all the tools available. Provide time for questions and comments regarding how the test engine functions. At this point, developing full answers for the example assessment questions is not important. Depending on the number of questions and comments students have, this activity will take approximately 30–45 minutes for the practice test and 30 minutes for the Performance Task.

<u>Guided Using Individual Computers</u>

Guide students through the practice test or Performance Task while on individual computers. Give specific directions on using the tools available on each independent item or essay. Provide time for questions and comments regarding how the test engine functions. Depending on the number of questions and comments student have, this activity will take approximately 45–60 minutes each for the practice test and Performance Task.

<u>Independently Using Individual Computers</u>

Allow students time to explore the practice test freely and become familiar with the online testing engine functionalities. Remind students to practice all tools available or give them a list of practice points. Monitor practice sessions and answer student questions as needed. Depending on the number of questions and comments students have this option can take up to 3 hours.

Practice Test Braille Embossing

The mathematics Braille embossing practice test is a modified version of the format for how items are embossed for a student who requires a braille accommodation. In an actual testing situation, a test administrator and a student will use a secure browser environment that supports both automatic and on-demand requests for embossing.

Accessing the Practice and Training Tests

Users may take the practice and training tests in guest mode or by using the secure browser. For more information on how to access a secure training or practice test, refer to section Test Administrator Access to Secure Practice and Training Tests.

Things to Consider:

- Teachers are encouraged to answer students' questions and give support during both the training and practice tests, including the Performance Task.

All students should have the opportunity to access either the practice or training tests *before* taking the online summative or interim Smarter Balanced or WCAS tests.

Test Administrator Access to Secure Practice and Training Tests

1. On the WCAP Portal homepage, select a test.
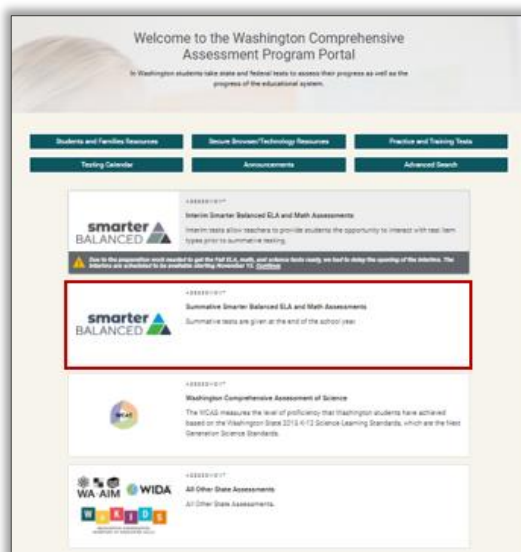
2. Under the *All Systems Used in Summative Testing – Preparing for Testing* section, select the *TA Practice Interface* card.

📎
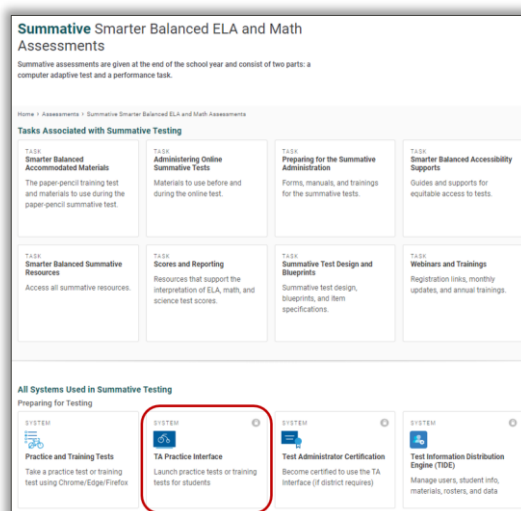
Be sure to select the *TA Practice Interface* card, the *TA Interface* card is only used to administer the summative assessments.

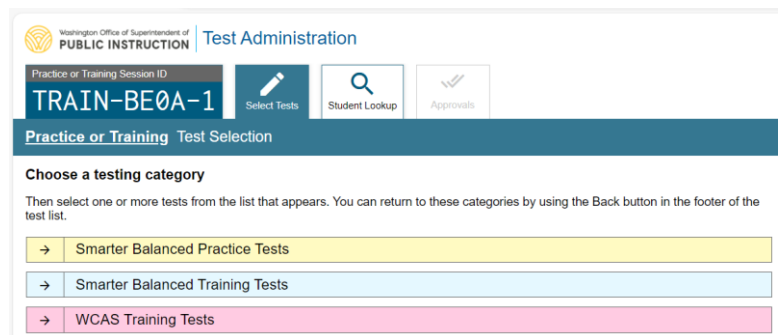Giving students a summative test instead of a practice or training test is a test incident.
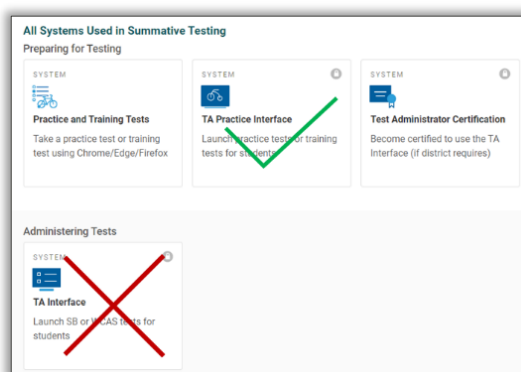
3. The *Login* page appears.
4. Enter your username and password.
5. Click the **Secure Login** button.
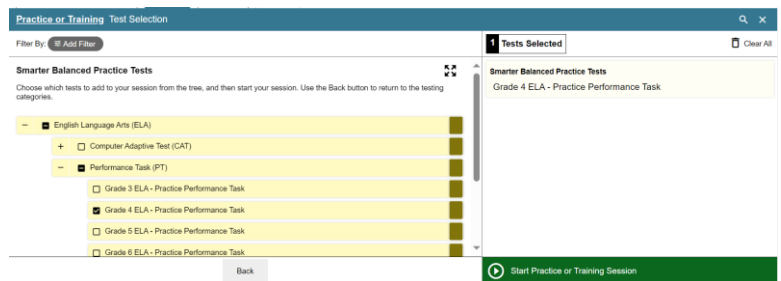
6. You should see the *Practice or Training Test Selection* screen.

7. Select a practice or training test by clicking on the plus sign + to drill down and check the box for next to each test(s) being administered. In this example the *Grade 4 ELA – Practice Performance Task* was selected.
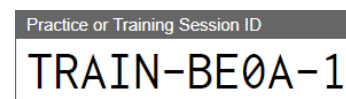
8. Click on the **Start Practice or Training Test Session** button to create a session ID. Do Not start the session more than 20 minutes before the students will log in.
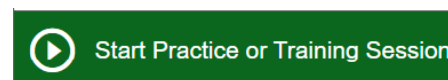
9. A *Practice or Training Session ID* will be generated, in this case **TRAIN-BE0A-1**. Write the session ID on the board for student access.

Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** | Test Administration

Help Guide | Sheets, Jenna ⌄

Practice or Training Session ID
TRAIN-BE0A-1

✏️ Select Tests | 🔍 Student Lookup | ✔️ Approvals

🛑 Stop Session | 🔄 Refresh Page | ☰ Menu

Practice or Training Test Selection   🔍 ✕

The top of the screen in the TA Practice Interface contains the following parts from left to right.

1. **Session ID** – unique ID generated for this test session.
2. **Select Tests** – opens the **Test Selection** window so you can add additional tests to your session.
3. **Student Lookup** – allows you to search for student information.
4. **Approvals** – opens the **Approvals and Student Test Settings** window.
5. **Help Guide** – displays the online help guide for this system.
6. **Stop Session** – Stops current test sessions.
7. **Refresh Page** – updates on-screen information.
8. **Menu**– Has the **Toggle Screensaver** and **Approved Requests** information. The **Approved Requests** window displays a list of requests you approved for print during the current session.
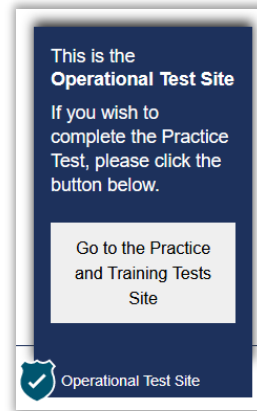9. **Search**- allows you to search for tests by label.

Student Access to Secure Practice and Training Tests

Student Login Instructions

1. Have students click on the **WA Secure Browser** icon.

2. Have students click the **Go to the Practice and Training Tests Site** button in the bottom left hand corner of the screen.

3. On the next screen students should see *Please Sign In* page. In the bottom left hand corner of the screen it should say *This is the **Practice and Training Tests Site** in a green box.


4. Students will move the **Guest User** button and the **Guest Session** button to the right (to the OFF position). Students will enter their **First Name**, **Student ID** and the **Session ID** in the boxes that appear. Then they will click the green **Sign In** button at the bottom of the page.
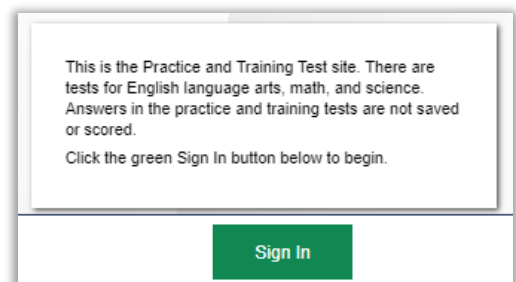
Approving Students Secure Practice and Training Tests

Test Administrator Instructions for Approving Students' Tests

When students select their training or practice tests, the ***Approvals*** box in the upper-right corner of the Training Test Interface appears. Click the **Approvals** button to view the list of students awaiting approval. If a student selected an incorrect training or practice test, deny access. Verify student's test settings by clicking the **Eye** button in that student's row.

When student information has been verified:

- Click the **Check Mark** button to approve an individual student; or

- To deny a student for testing, click the **X** button and enter the reason in the box (the student will see what you enter in the box); or

- To approve all students in the list for testing, click the ***Approve All Students*** in the *Approvals* window.

  Monitor the ***Students in your Test Session*** table.

- use the **Pause** button to pause students' tests

- use the **Stop Session** button next to the Session ID to end a test session