



## **Why is the Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (I-SAT) by Smarter Balanced® valuable for my child?**

### **1. Why should my child take the test?**

- The ISAT by Smarter Balanced® replaces the previous state test in English language arts and math. The test is aligned to the standards that are guiding instruction in the classroom. In addition to an overall score in both subjects, it also shows how well your child is performing in comparison to peers in his or her grade level, school and district, as well as useful information about your child's strengths and areas for improvement.
- The test is not meant to provide a complete picture of student achievement, but when combined with other measures, including teacher reports and student grades, it provides important information about your child's progress.

### **2. What makes this test different from other state tests?**

- The assessment goes beyond multiple-choice questions to get a deeper understanding of your child's learning. The questions require your child to apply his or her knowledge and skills to address real-world problems and describe the reasoning. Because the test questions are more in-depth, parents and teachers receive more detailed information about student learning than previous tests.

### **3. Will taking this test help my child improve?**

- Yes. The test reports break down each subject into different categories of skills, and shows how well your child performed in each. This helps you and your child's teacher understand where your child is doing well and where he or she needs more support. You can use this information to guide a discussion with your child's teacher(s) about additional supports or challenges needed in class, and other ways to support your child at home. Teachers will use this information to guide their instruction and provide more effective and targeted support and remediation. They can also identify where your child has mastered content so they can provide more challenging work to continue to keep him or her engaged and making progress.

### **4. Why is my child's participation important?**

- These tests serve as an 'academic checkup'. Although they are only one measure of your child's progress, the scores on the assessment can be compared from one year to the next. This makes them a useful tool to ensure your child is making progress and is on track for the next grade level and to graduate prepared for the next step.

### **5. How much instructional time does my child spend taking the ISAT by Smarter Balanced® assessment?**

- Students spend less than 1 percent of classroom time on this test, which replaced the previous annual assessment. Since the assessments are aligned to our state standards, all learning prepares students for these assessments. Good teaching will always be the best method of preparing students for success—whether that's success on an assessment, a presentation, or to move on to the next grade level.

**6. Does my child need to take so many tests?**

- We are committed to preparing all students for success in college and career, and part of that requires assessing students. Assessment is a component of good instruction. As a district, we're working to ensure that our students only take assessments that provide meaningful data for students, teachers and parents.

**7. Should I be concerned about the privacy of my child's data?**

- Protecting student data and privacy is a top priority. The state of Idaho retains control over student information, and federal law prohibits the creation of a federal database with students' personally identifiable information. Any recommended data collection adheres to all federal and state privacy laws, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- The information collected from the ISAT by Smarter Balanced® test is valuable for parents, teachers and district leaders. Along with helping identify gaps in individual student learning, it also helps leaders more effectively distribute resources to the schools that need them the most. At the school level, it can also be one factor that is used in evaluating the effectiveness of the curriculum and materials used in the classroom.

**8. Where can I go for more information?**

- For more information on the Smarter Balanced test, including FAQs, videos, and links to practice tests, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/isat-cas/> or <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>. To see a walk-through of a practice test and for resources to help your child at home, visit <http://belearninghero.org/classroom/smarter-balanced>.

**What do the Questions Look Like?**

**ISAT by SBAC 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Question:**

**17**

Drag one number into each box to create a fraction that correctly completes each statement.

0	$4 \times \frac{\square}{\square} < 4$  $4 \times \frac{\square}{\square} = 4$  $4 \times \frac{\square}{\square} > 4$
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

## ISAT by SBAC 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Question:

<p><b>Student Directions</b></p> <p><b>Napping Explanatory Performance Task</b></p> <p><b>Task:</b> There has been much discussion in the news recently about the role of sleep and the role of napping. How many hours of sleep is enough? What is too much sleep? What is too little sleep? How do naps fit into sleep cycles? The journalism club advisor has asked you to research the roles of sleep and napping. As part of your research, you have found three sources about sleep and napping.</p> <p>After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully so you will have the information you will need to answer the questions and complete your research. You may click on the Global Notes button to take notes on the information you find in the sources as you read. You may also use scratch paper to take notes.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Explain how the table in Source #1 supports information provided in the <b>two</b> other sources. Cite evidence and identify the source of each piece of information by title or number.</p> <div data-bbox="662 552 1250 674" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 58px;"></div> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>People whose sleep is routinely interrupted might need to pay special attention to their sleep needs. Provide <b>two</b> pieces of evidence from different sources that support this claim and explain how each example supports the claim. Cite evidence for each piece of information and identify the source by title or number.</p> <div data-bbox="662 804 1250 888" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>
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