



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 8, 2015

Dear LEA CAASPP Coordinators:

**ENHANCEMENTS TO THE SMARTER BALANCED INTERIM ASSESSMENTS  
FOR THE 2015–16 SCHOOL YEAR**

On August 10, local educational agencies (LEAs) may begin administering the interim assessments for the 2015–16 school year. At that time, the following enhancements to the interim assessment system will be available:

- LEAs may administer the interim comprehensive assessments (ICAs) up to three times per student and the interim assessment blocks (IABs) an unlimited number of times. This is an increase from the limit of two opportunities that was in place for the ICAs and IABs during the 2014–15 school year.
- LEAs may administer interim assessments for any grade level to any student. This is a change from the restricted availability of the interim assessments that was in place during the 2014–15 school year (i.e., availability at enrolled grade level, one grade level below enrolled grade, and one grade level above enrolled grade).

On July 6, the California Technical Assistance Center (CalTAC) notified LEA CAASPP coordinators about scheduled downtime—August 1–9, 2015—of the interim assessment administration and hand scoring system to conduct maintenance and updates in preparation for the 2015–16 school year.

All 2014–15 interim assessment systems and features will remain available through July 31. Results from the 2014–15 administrations of the interim assessments will remain in the Interim Assessment Reporting System until further notice. You will be notified when results are scheduled to be purged by the California Department of Education. Please note that enhancements to the test delivery system, which will improve the interim and summative assessment experience, are under development and expected to be active this fall. Further details will be available in the coming months.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please contact CalTAC by phone at 800-955-2954 or by e-mail at [caltac@ets.org](mailto:caltac@ets.org).

Sincerely,

/s/

Michelle Center, Smarter Balanced State Lead  
Assessment Development and Administration Division

MC:bl

cc: County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators