
Module: Supporting Decisions with Assessment
Exercise for Major Milepost Assessment

For this exercise, imagine you are a teacher or administrator focused on the middle grades. To fulfill state and federal requirements, students across your district take an end-of-year standardized test developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The next page shows aggregate performance on the mathematics portion of this test for sixth-graders in your district over the last few years. The tables reveal that students often meet standards of proficiency in three areas of the test (“claims” in SBAC terminology), but more often fall short in *Communicating Reasoning*. Outline an investigation into potential causes for this persistent outcome, and hypothesize decisions that could be made based on various findings of an investigation. Use the links below and any other resources you may have, in your planning.

Smarter Balanced video for understanding the Summative Assessment

<https://youtu.be/FEy3PxOCE58>

Smarter Balanced Mathematics Summative Assessment Test Blueprint

<https://portal.smarterbalanced.org/library/en/mathematics-summative-assessment-blueprint.pdf>

Smarter Balanced Interpretive Guide

<https://portal.smarterbalanced.org/library/en/reporting-system-interpretive-guide.pdf>

Common Core Standards for Mathematics

<http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>

Concepts and Procedures

	Below Standard	Near Standard	Above Standard
2017-18	13.3%	18.4%	68.3%
2018-19	13.6%	19.0%	67.4%
2019-20	12.8%	18.7%	68.5%
2020-21	13.0%	18.9%	68.1%

Problem Solving

	Below Standard	Near Standard	Above Standard
2017-18	12.7%	17.1%	70.2%
2018-19	12.3%	16.4%	71.3%
2019-20	13.4%	16.8%	69.8%
2020-21	12.6%	17.3%	70.1%

Communicating Reasoning

	Below Standard	Near Standard	Above Standard
2017-18	24.5%	35.0%	40.5%
2018-19	28.1%	32.3%	39.6%
2019-20	27.8%	33.8%	38.4%
2020-21	25.5%	34.7%	39.8%

Modeling/Data Analysis

	Below Standard	Near Standard	Above Standard
2017-18	14.5%	21.0%	64.5%
2018-19	10.0%	20.7%	69.3%
2019-20	14.7%	19.8%	65.5%
2020-21	13.1%	20.2%	66.7%