

District Continuous Improvement & Support

September 14, 2020

September is Attendance Awareness Month

Whether in-person or virtual, student attendance is an essential condition for learning. Positive attendance is also an indicator of healthy students and healthy schools. Although the current school closures have complicated attendance accounting, the heart of any school attendance campaign remains the same: building strong relationships with students, families, and schools.

Attendance Works has launched its Attendance Awareness Campaign, and the theme for 2020-2021 is *Present, Supported, and Engaged*. Attendance Awareness Campaign Newsletters, six research-based Key Messages that support positive attendance, and the Attendance Playbook: Smart Strategies for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism in the COVID Era are just a few of the helpful resources Attendance Works has made available to schools and districts.

“Train the Trainers” 2020 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series

This training series will be presented by ETS and WestEd on behalf of the California Department of Education, and will provide guidance on how to train colleagues on the following topics:

- Module 1: Assessment literacy
- Module 2: Performance task design
- Module 3: Scoring performance tasks
- Module 4: Claims and targets
- Module 5: Hand scoring practice
- Module 6: Formative assessment process and Tools for Teachers
- Module 7: Interim assessment resources and systems

For each module, a stand-alone PowerPoint presentation and associated resources, including an overview video, will be provided. Participants will need logon credentials for the Test Operations Management System (TOMS) to be able to access and download the training materials when they are released in late September.

In addition to the stand-alone modules and associated resources,

three live webinars will be available to provide LEA staff trainers additional guidance and support. There also will be two virtual Office Hours sessions, where facilitators and participants can ask subject-matter experts questions about the training. For live session dates and to register, visit the [Zoom webinar registration web page](#).

Questions regarding the 2020 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series should be directed to CalOutreach@ets.org.

PD Opportunity: "Stand Up, Stand Together for Every Student" - Sept. 29 - 30, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information about this virtual professional development hosted by Riverside County Office of Education. "Stand Up, Stand Together" will include workshops on virtual counseling, mental health, technology, advocacy, social justice, and college and career readiness, all led by local and national school counseling leaders. Administrators, school counselors, college and career staff, and district leaders are encouraged to register. Deadline for registration is September 25th.

PD Opportunity: "Leading Schoolwide SEL: Preparing for the Journey Ahead" - CASEL

The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) will be hosting a four-part virtual workshop series that weaves together their schoolwide SEL Framework with timely insights and resources for new types of learning experiences this year. The workshop series is designed for PreK - 12h grade school and district leaders, SEL specialists and coordinators, and others involved in leading schoolwide SEL implementation. Deadline to register is September 13th. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

PD Opportunity: "History-Social Science Inquiry in the Classroom"

Stanislaus County Office of Education along with three Region 6 districts are hosting a year-long series of free, virtual workshops for history-social science educators. [Click here](#) to see the flier for more information and to register.

Now Available: Test Administration Guidelines - ELPAC

Descriptions of the different options for administering the fall Initial ELPAC and the optional Summative ELPAC are located at <https://ca-toms-help.ets.org/fall-admins/>. This website also has communications for stakeholders and directions for LEAs, test examiners, parents/guardians, and students. Additional information regarding the kindergarten through grade two Writing domain Answer Books is located on the [home page for Fall Administrations](#). For questions about the fall administrations contact CalTAC, by phone at 800-955-2954 or by email at caltac@ets.org.

Back to School Assessment Playbook

The *Back to School Assessment Playbook* describes how educators can use Smarter Balanced resources such as [Tools for Teachers](#) and Interim Assessment Blocks in support of high-quality instruction in the formative assessment process.

Educators can refer to the *Playbook* as they make decisions about how they will use assessments and which resources to use for identifying learning gaps and accelerating learning. Smarter Balanced members collaborated to create this resource, which includes:

- Guidance on choosing and using effective instructional resources and strategies
- Recommendations on teaching and measuring the highest-priority content in each subject
- Information on how to integrate interim assessments within the formative assessment process in the classroom

Interim Assessment Item Portal

The Smarter Balanced [Interim Assessment Item Portal \(IAIP\)](#) is a new tool that allows educators to use interim assessment items in more flexible ways than ever before to support the use of the formative assessment process. Educators can select and assemble interim assessment items to better align with the sequence of their instruction.

IAIP search filters allow educators to easily find, access, and print relevant interim assessment items for use in both remote teaching and traditional classroom settings. The filters allow users to search for items by:

- Grade
- Subject
- Test name
- Claim
- Target
- Content standard

It is important to remember that interim assessment items are copyrighted, and it is prohibited for any items to be uploaded or posted to third-party websites and applications.

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