

# Smarter Balanced Practice Test Information

Hello, families! We will be taking the Smarter Balanced end of the year test starting in mid-April. The test consists of both ELA and Math portions. Some questions are multiple choice with only one correct answer, some are “select two answers” or “mark all that apply”, some require students to click or drag answers, and some require typing. We are going to complete the training test at school prior to the students taking the real test, so that they are familiar with the various types of test questions. These training tests are less than ten questions. We also answer different types of questions daily as part of our regular curriculum.

There are also practice tests that are longer, more like 30 questions. If you would like to preview these questions yourself so you have a better understanding of what your child will do or have your child practice them at home, we are including directions for how you can access them at home. We are not requiring this, especially since we know not everyone has access to a computer with Internet. However, in case you were interested, we wanted to provide the information.

The website for accessing the Practice Tests is: <http://de.portalairast.org/practicetest/> If you have any technical difficulties or want more information on how to access the test, there is a PDF you can download on the right side of the Practice Test page that gives you specific details.

We will be completing the Training Tests and the Performance Tasks at school, but the Practice Tests (marked with the star) will not be completed at school.

**DeSSA**  
Delaware System of Student Assessments

**Student Training Test**

### Your Tests

Select the test you need to take.

- Start Smarter PTMath Grades 3-5 Training Test  
This is opportunity 1 of 99
- Start Smarter PTELA Grades 3-5 Training Test  
This is opportunity 1 of 99
- ★ Start Smarter PTG3 Math Practice Test  
This is opportunity 1 of 99
- ★ Start Smarter PTG3 ELA Practice Test  
This is opportunity 1 of 99
- Start Smarter PTG3 Math Performance Task  
This is opportunity 1 of 99
- Start Smarter PTG3 ELA Performance Task  
This is opportunity 1 of 99

[Back to Login](#)

Since the test also requires typing, any opportunity your child has at home to practice typing would be great! Spelling homework, writing a story, or even a typing game are possible suggestions. You can search for “free typing games” to find some good ones online. Students have also been working on keyboarding during computers all year.

One of the more difficult aspects regarding typing can be typing answers to math questions, because students can be confused about how to type math symbols. They are practicing in computers, but we’ve included the directions for you as well that they were given at school.

## Student Directions for Math Typing:

When you take the Smarter Balanced test, you will need to type out answers and explain your thinking on both the reading and math test. There are certain symbols you might need.

Math Skill	Symbol	Example(s)	Retype Example Yourself
Addition	+ (hold shift and hit +/- key)	$3 + 4$	
Subtraction	- (key next to the 0 and +/- key)		
Multiplication	x or *	$3 \times 4$ or $3 * 4$	
Division	/	$12/4$ (12 divided by 4)	
Fractions	/	$1/2$	
Equals symbol	= (hit +/- key but don't hold shift)		

You can also ALWAYS type out the words to explain a math answer. For example, if you can't remember how to type  $12/4 = 3$  to show division, you can type "12 divided by 4 equals 3".

If you have an area question, just type out the words "square units" or "square inches" because it's hard to get the little 2 for units<sup>2</sup>.

**Sample question:** Third grade has 68 boys and 57 girls. How many more boys than girls are there in third grade? Explain how you got your answer.

**Sample answer:** There are 11 more boys than girls. I got my answer by subtracting  $68 - 57 = 11$ .

\*You could also use only words and say: "I got my answer by subtracting 57 from 68 and it equaled 11."

Thank you for your continued support as we get close to the end of the school year. It's hard to believe how fast the year has gone, and it will be over before we know it.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,  
The Third Grade Team