

## Smarter Balanced Testing

This year all sophomores and juniors will be taking one or more of the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). Sophomores will take the English Language Assessment (ELA) and juniors will take both the ELA and Math assessments. These tests will assess the new Common Core State Standards. The SBA is given online. You can help prepare your student for these new online assessments by having them take the Practice and Training Tests at home.

### Practice Test

The practice test mirrors the summative assessment that students will take during the spring. Each assessment contains a variety of question types of varying difficulty. There are approximately 30 items on each assessment (math and ELA) and a performance task. This test contains the tools that students will be allowed to use on the actual test.

### Training Test

The training test contains sample items for different grade bands (grades 9 – 11).

1. **Access the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP) website.** The following link will take you to this website: <http://wa.portal.airast.org/>. You should bookmark this site and sign up for email alerts (upper right corner of the page).
2. **Download a Secure Browser.** You will need a secure browser to access the Training Tests. Click on the button entitled “Secure Browsers” to see the list of secure browsers. The buttons at the bottom of the page allow you to download the appropriate secure browser for your home operating system.
3. **Click on the “Practice & Training Tests” Button.** Open the WCAP home page (see link above) using your secure browser. Click on the “Practice & Training Tests” button on the right side of the page then click on the “Take the Practice and Training Tests” button.
4. **Sign in as a Guest.** Click the “Sign In” button. Select 10 or 11 from the grade pull down menu and press the “Yes” button.
5. **Select the Appropriate Training Test.** Select either the ELA or Math Practice Test to learn about the tools for the SBA. Your student should explore the tools for both the ELA and Math tests.

Thanks for helping your student become familiar with the new online testing tools.