

BRAILLE OPTIONS 2023–2024

Braille is an embedded and non-embedded accommodation available on Smarter Balanced assessments.



Smarter Balanced offers a range of options for educators to use to support students. For more information, visit the [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines \(UAAG\)](#).

Table 1. Braille Access

Online Access with Assistive Technology	On-Site Embossed Files	Paper Braille
Students are able to access the online assessments via screen reader software and a refreshable braille display. All graphics have alternative text descriptions	It is recommended that test administrators emboss files on-site as the students take the assessments. This is especially important for Mathematics assessments.	Smarter Balanced also provides the option of testing with a paper version of the assessments. Check with your state regarding this option.

Table 2. Braille on Smarter Balanced Assessments

Subject	Braille Codes Available
Practice and Training Tests (Online)	<p>Gives students ability to practice different item types and functionality with assistive technology</p> <p>Braille text and braille graphic files are available on the Smarter Balanced Sample Items Website</p>
Interim Assessments (Online)	<p>Full access to Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs), Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs), and Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs)</p> <p>On-site embossing of braille text and braille graphic files (graphic embosser required)</p>
Summative Assessment (Online)	<p>Fully adaptive</p> <p>On-site embossing of braille text and braille graphic files (graphic embosser required)</p>
Summative Assessment Braille Hybrid Adaptive Test (Optional Online Form)	<p>Combination of online adaptive and fixed form for Mathematics only</p> <p>Pre-ordered braille graphics package available from American Printing House for the Blind</p> <p>Reduces logistics of on-site embossing of braille graphic files</p> <p>Braille text embosser is required</p>

CHOOSING BRAILLE CODE AND FORMAT

Smarter Balanced has various braille codes available to meet the needs of students taking the assessments with braille. Each student who uses braille is unique in their braille needs and preferences. Some students are early braille readers and may need to use braille that does not contain contractions (symbols in braille that shorten the length of text) while other more experienced braille readers will use braille with contractions. Smarter Balanced provides all of the available braille codes in both uncontracted and contracted forms.

Table 3. Braille Codes by Subject

Subject	Braille Codes Available
English Language Arts/Literacy	Unified English Braille (UEB) contracted UEB uncontracted
Mathematics	UEB with Nemeth contracted UEB with Nemeth uncontracted UEB with UEB Math (technical) contracted UEB with UEB Math (technical) uncontracted