



Braille Hybrid Adaptive Test (HAT)

This document includes information about a testing option for students using Braille mathematics assessments in grades 3-8. American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and Smarter Balanced will provide consortium members—through their service providers—the option of pre-embossed tactile Mathematics graphics for the online Braille Hybrid Adaptive Test (HAT) in grades 3-8.

- Service providers who can support this option will provide the Braille HAT option and will facilitate the order of pre-embossed tactile graphics on behalf of members.
- Blind or visually impaired students eligible for taking the Braille version of the assessment can take the Braille HAT option, if available in their state/territory.
- Smarter Balanced will cover all costs for the pre-embossed tactile graphics orders and shipping.
- APH accepts orders for pre-embossed tactile graphic sets from service providers.
- Graphic supplements will be shipped to each location as instructed by service providers.
- The Test Package containing the Braille HAT form is available to service providers on the Smarter Balanced secure FX site.
- A list of item IDs that comprise this form is available on the Smarter Balanced secure FX site.

Questions can be directed to [Trisha Klein](#), Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

Questions and Answers

What is the purpose of the mathematics Braille HAT in grades 3-8?

The mathematics Braille HAT provides an additional secure Summative Assessment option for districts and schools to make available to students who use Braille. The Braille HAT provides students access to an efficient computer adaptive test that simplifies logistical burdens for educators and students. This online form serves as an alternative to the computer adaptive and paper fixed form options. The Braille HAT form option allows districts or schools to order a set of pre-embossed graphics for a student's mathematics test in cases where the student would not otherwise have access to a graphic braille embosser that works with the Smarter Balanced assessment items. The student would be able to use the online test administration platform with assistive technology, including embedded accessibility resources, while also accessing the pre-embossed graphics.

How can Consortium members order the mathematics online braille hybrid adaptive test (HAT) for grades 3-8?

Consortium members need to establish the process by which the forms are made available to schools. Members should consider implementing a process by which schools can contact state/territory personnel to place orders. Member service providers will help members place orders directly with APH. It is likely that a very small number of students will need to have access to this form.

What Braille codes will be available for the Braille HAT in grades 3-8?

For the 2020-2021 administration, the braille hybrid adaptive test (HAT) will be available in English Braille American Edition (EBAE) paired with Nemeth math code (contracted and uncontracted), Unified English Braille (UEB) with Nemeth math code (contracted and uncontracted), and UEB with UEB Technical math code (contracted and uncontracted). Member service providers should consult with the student's Teacher for the Visually Impaired to ensure the correct assessment and code are selected for the student. EBAE support will be discontinued in June, 2021.

Do the pre-embossed graphics for the mathematics Braille HAT in grades 3-8 need to be securely recycled after each administration?

No. In cases for which there is more than one student in a school who will benefit from the pre-embossed graphics, the pre-embossed graphics may be securely stored and provided in support of additional students' tests at different times (i.e. students may not share the same pre-embossed graphic at the same time). When pre-embossed graphics are used by more than one student, a Test Administrator must review the materials to ensure that no markings or information are transcribed onto the sheets in a manner that would compromise the validity of results. After the school has completed testing for students who benefit from having access to the pre-embossed graphics, the pre-embossed graphics must be securely recycled.