



# Assistive Technology and Secure Browsers

*Brief – 29 July 2014*

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Students are required to use a “secure browser” when taking Smarter Balanced and other high stakes tests. A secure browser locks down the computer or device so that students cannot visit unauthorized websites or run unauthorized applications until the test is complete.

For students needing Assistive Technology, such as screen readers, alternative input devices, or refreshable braille displays, the Assistive Technology device will have to work with the secure browser in much the same way as it would work with a conventional browser. The secure browsers that were used on the Spring 2014 Field Test are available at on the [field test portal browser page](#). Since it is associated with the field tests, that page will be taken down sometime before the end of September 2014. In August 2014 Smarter Balanced will post a new webpage on [SmarterBalanced.org](#) with secure browsers for the 2014-2015 school year tests.

## Usability Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines

Any Assistive Technology must follow the Smarter Balanced guidelines to avoid compromising the integrity of the test. The following documents outline those requirements:

- [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines](#)
- [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines FAQ](#)
- [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Implementation Guide](#)

## Secure Browser Requirements and Specifications

Another prospect is to build assistive technology directly into a Secure Browser. Smarter Balanced will be releasing source code to secure browsers in September. Smarter Balanced will approve secure browsers that meet requirements and implement the required APIs regardless of whether they are based on the open source code. A preview edition of the secure browser requirements and specifications is available here:

- [Secure Browser Requirements and Specifications](#)