

Online Fixed Form Mathematics Tests for Students Using Braille,
Pre-embossed Graphics Available

This document includes information about a new testing option for students using Braille mathematics assessments in grades 3-8 and 11. American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and Smarter Balanced will provide states – through their service providers – the option of pre-embossed tactile Mathematics graphics for the online, fixed-form mathematics assessments in grades 3-8 and 11.

- Service providers that can support this option will provide the online fixed-form option and will facilitate the order of pre-embossed tactile graphics on behalf of states.
- Blind or visually impaired students eligible for taking the Braille version of the assessment can take the online fixed-form option, if available in their state.
- Smarter Balanced will cover all costs for the pre-embossed tactile graphics orders and shipping.
- Beginning March 16, 2015, APH will accept orders for pre-embossed tactile graphic sets from service providers.
- Graphics sets will be shipped to each location as instructed by service providers.
- The Test Package containing this new fixed form will be available to service providers by March 23, 2015 on the Smarter Balanced secure FTP site.
- A list of item IDs that comprise this form will be available on the Smarter Balanced secure FTP site by Wednesday March 18, 2015.
- Questions can be directed to Anne Davidson (anne.davidson@smarterbalanced.org), Smarter Balanced.

Questions and Answers

Q1. What is the purpose of the new mathematics online braille fixed form test in grades 3-8 and 11?

A1. The new mathematics online braille fixed form provides an additional secure Summative Assessment option for districts and schools to make available to students who use Braille. This online form serves as an alternative to the online adaptive and paper fixed form options. The online fixed form option allows districts or schools to order a set of pre-printed embossed graphics for a student's mathematics test in cases where the student would not otherwise have access to an embossible printer that works with the Smarter Balanced assessment items. The student would be able to use the online test administration platform, including embedded accessibility resources, while also accessing the pre-embossed graphics.

Information on third option for students using Braille on mathematics assessments:
Online Fixed Forms with Pre-embossed Graphics

Q2. How will states order the mathematics online braille fixed form test in grades 3-8 and 11?

A2. States need to establish the process by which the forms are made available to schools. States should consider implementing a process by which schools can contact state personnel to place orders. State service providers will help states place orders directly with American Printing House for the Blind (APH). It is likely that a very small number of students will need to have access to this form.

Q3. Do the pre-embossed graphics for the mathematics online braille fixed form tests in grades 3-8 and 11 need to be securely recycled after each administration?

A3. 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.

Q4. When will the new new mathematics online braille fixed form test in grades 3-8 and 11 be available to students?

A4. The Test Package that contains this new fixed form will be available to service providers by March 23rd, 2015 on the Smarter Balanced secure FTP site. Effective immediately, states may work with schools to order a set of pre-embossed graphics for a secure summative assessment. Each state will need to consult with their test administration service provider regarding which schools have students who need access to this new form and when those students may start taking the online test. For service providers that want additional specifics, a list of item IDs that comprise this form will be available on the Smarter Balanced secure FTP site by Wednesday March 18th, 2015.