



Guidelines for the Configuration of iPads During Smarter Balanced Testing

2015-2016 Testing Year

When administering Smarter Balanced tests on iPads you must take certain considerations into account. *The following are recommendations from Smarter Balanced, state policies may vary.*

Please also consult Apple's recommendations for Assessment with iPad:

http://images.apple.com/education/docs/Assessment_with_iPad.pdf

Device Type

Smarter Balanced device requirements are listed here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/test-taking-devices-approved-secure-browsers/>

Smarter Balanced requires a screen of at least 9.5 inches diagonally. Standard size iPads and the iPad Pro qualify. Other iOS devices with smaller screens do not. Smarter Balanced also requires a physical keyboard to be used so that the entire screen is available for the assessment item.

Secure Browser

A secure browser should be installed on the iPad. This browser prevents students from using unauthorized applications and provides important features such as text-to-speech. The open source secure browser is available in the Apple app store. There is variation among service providers so please check with your state service provider for exact requirements.

“Secure Testing” Mode

During testing, the iOS device must be placed in Single App Mode (SAM), Autonomous Single App Mode (ASAM) or Guided Access mode. These qualify as “Secure Testing” modes. Apple and Smarter Balanced recommend SAM or ASAM though Guided Access is acceptable. Placing the device in one of these modes will prevent students from accessing applications, services, or websites that could compromise test integrity.

iOS Version

iOS Version 8.1.3 introduces management settings to disable features that may interfere with test integrity. iOS version 9 corrects an issue where certain physical keyboard keys could freeze the testing application.

Smarter Balanced recommends iOS version 9. However, in that version students can initiate a voice chat application like FaceTime (in audio only mode) or Skype (in audio only mode) which will continue to function after testing is initiated. Under certain circumstances, an individual on the other end of the connection could hear and record audio portions of the test and words spoken by the student.

iOS 9 disables video and text chat applications while in a Secure Testing mode – audio-only connections are the only concern. Apple has indicated that Secure Testing modes will disable audio chat in a release that is expected before the end of 2015. **Districts and schools should plan to install this update to iOS 9 before summative testing commences in Spring 2016.** In the meantime, with interim testing, they should monitor the testing environment to ensure that students don't initiate audio connections before testing begins.

Management Settings

For test security reasons, certain features of iOS devices need to be restricted administratively while students take Smarter Balanced assessments. iOS 9 includes configuration profile options you can use to restrict these features.

- Definition Lookup for Highlighted Words (“Dictionary”)
- Predictive Keyboard
- Spell-Check while Typing
- Auto-Correction while Typing
- Share Selected Text (introduced in iOS 9)

The testing system provides dictionary and spell checking features when they do not interfere with the test construct. Using the testing-system provided features ensures:

- Full compatibility across all platforms (e.g., spell-check should work exactly the same on all devices)
- Complete control over the times a feature should be available (e.g., spell-check is only available for certain writing assignments)
- Approved content and functionality (e.g., embedded Merriam-Webster dictionary)

Here are the feature profiles and recommended settings:

Feature	Reason for Restriction	Profile Key	Recommended Value
Dictionary	This feature provides access to the Apple-provided dictionary, such as definitions for highlighted words. Instead, the Smarter Balanced tests offers the Merriam-Webster dictionary for approved items.	<key>allowDefinitionLookup</key>	False
Predictive Keyboard	iOS attempts to guess the word the user is likely to type next, based on its’ “learning” of the user’s writing style, past conversations and current context, and offers the user a selection of words.	<key>allowPredictiveKeyboard</key>	False
Spell-Check	This feature will underline words iOS detects as possibly misspelled.	<key>allowSpellCheck</key>	False
Auto-Correction	This feature alerts the user with words iOS detects as possibly incorrect.	<key>allowAutoCorrection</key>	False
Share Selected Text	This feature allows users to select text share it with others over the internet.	Automatically disabled when “allowDefinitionLookup is disabled.	

Creating a Custom Profile

You can create a custom profile and use the Apple Configurator or a Mobile Device Manager (MDM) to install it on the iOS device that will be used for testing. If you are using a 3rd party MDM solution that allows custom profiles, you will need to consult your MDM vendor for instructions on how to import and install the profile. For more information about restricting these features, please refer to: <http://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204271>.