

Data Recognition Corporation

DRC

MDE approved benchmark assessment providers must meet the following criteria under Public Act 149 Section 104 (9).

Criteria	Vendor Response
a) Be one of the most commonly administered benchmark assessments in this state.	Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments administered by DRC INSIGHT was selected as the no cost option referenced under Public Act 149(14).
b) Be aligned to the content standards of this state.	<p>The Smarter Balanced assessment system covers the full range of college- and career-ready knowledge and skills in a set of common standards substantially similar to the Michigan State Standards in ELA/literacy and mathematics.</p> <p>To ensure alignment to standards, the Consortium used an evidence-centered design (ECD) approach to define the constructs to be measured and to build the assessments.</p>
c) Complement the state’s summative assessment system.	<p>The Smarter Balanced assessment system is designed to enhance teaching and improve learning. Michigan uses Smarter Balanced items as part of the M-STEP summative assessment.</p> <p>Whereas the M-STEP summative assessments are administered at the end of the year for accountability, the interim assessments are optional and flexible tests given to students throughout the year to help teachers monitor student progress and personalize their learning experiences.</p>
d) Be internet-delivered and include a standards-based assessment using a computer-adaptive model to target the instructional level of each pupil.	<p>The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are internet-delivered using DRC’s online testing system, DRC INSIGHT, which is currently in use for summative testing throughout the state of Michigan.</p> <p>Delivering the benchmark assessments in the DRC INSIGHT online engine offers a number of important benefits to Michigan. Students, teachers, and technology coordinators are already familiar with the DRC INSIGHT engine. Thus, using the same engine eliminates the need to download and learn new software, saving time and additional burden for local districts.</p> <p>The DRC INSIGHT engine offers an extensive list of tools and accommodations that have been built over a long period of time based upon the research and input of practitioners, many of whom have been Michigan educators. DRC fully supports meeting the needs of all learners and has built the DRC INSIGHT platform to offer important tools and accommodations.</p>

<p>e) Provide information on pupil achievement with regard to learning content required in a given year or grade span</p>	<p>The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments provide information on student achievement in ELA/literacy and mathematics for grades 3–8. In addition, the ICAs may be helpful for determining the knowledge and skills of students who are new to the district or the state or enrolled in non-tested grades and providing interim information after a significant period of instruction.</p>
<p>f) Provide immediate feedback to pupils and teachers.</p>	<p>Following the administration and scoring of the interim assessments, results will be available in the Smarter Balanced Reporting System. The Smarter Balanced Reporting System is an interactive, online reporting platform that provides clear, easy-to-understand data on student achievement and delivers intuitive and timely reports for teachers, parents, and administrators to track student progress toward college and career readiness. Educators can view results from the interim assessments at the group, student, and item level to help identify what students know and can do and where they might need additional support to master the content. Users with the required permissions may also view, download, and print individual student reports.</p> <p>Tools for Teachers is an easy-to-search website featuring lessons and activities designed to save teachers time.</p>
<p>g) Be nationally normed.</p>	<p>In late 2014, thousands of educators from across the nation participated in achievement standing setting to help determine Smarter Balanced achievement levels to make available a consistent interpretation across the nation regarding the meaning of the scores.</p> <p>Smarter Balanced member states, and the educators they serve and support, continue to be highly involved each year in the development of instructional tools and resources.</p>
<p>h) Provide multiple measures of growth and provide for multiple testing opportunities.</p>	<p>The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are optional and flexible tests that can be given to students multiple times throughout the year to help teachers monitor student progress and personalize their learning experiences. A variety of reports are available for educators to track student progress. Educators can view results at the group, student, and item level to help identify what students know and can do and where they might need additional support to master the content. Scale scores are used to describe an individual student’s current level of achievement, and they can also be used to track growth over time.</p>