

# Idaho's Transition to a New Assessment



Idaho State Department of Education

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/commonAssessment/>



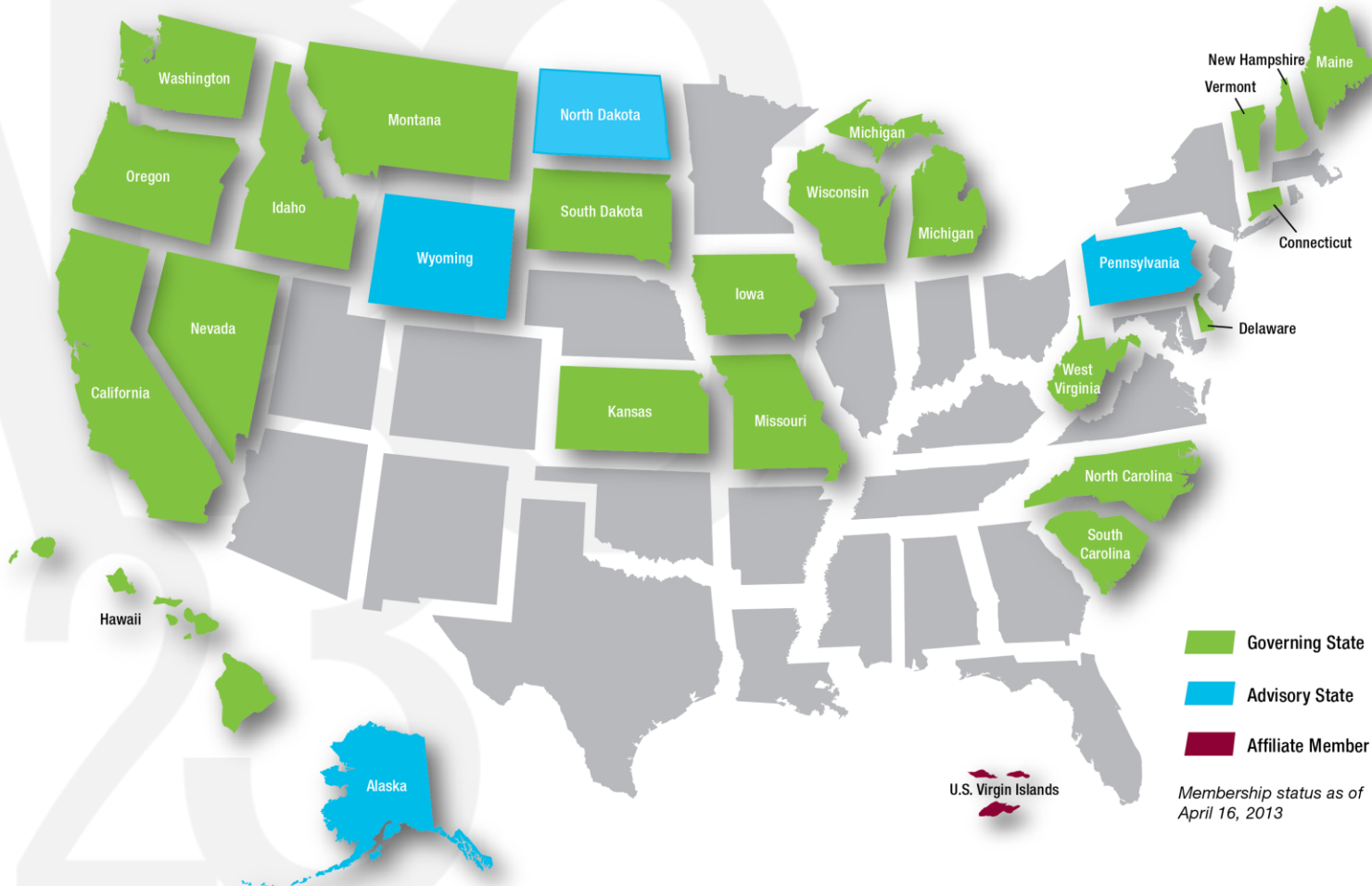
# What is Smarter Balanced?

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is a state-led effort to develop the next generation of assessments aligned to higher academic standards.
- Idaho is one of **26 states** in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.
- Idaho is a **governing** state.
- Luci Willits currently serves on the Executive Committee. Dr. Carissa Miller previously served as Co-Chair.



# What is Smarter Balanced?

*State-led consortium*





# What is Smarter Balanced?

- Smarter Balanced is currently funded through a federal grant.
- The federal grant funds the development of the assessment.
- After the assessment is developed, Idaho will pay for the administration of the new assessment the same way we pay for the ISAT currently.
  - About 80% federal funding and 20% state funding



# Why Smarter Balanced?

- Currently, there are two assessment consortiums of states working together.
- Other states, such as Utah, have chosen to develop their own assessments.
- Idaho chose to join Smarter Balanced for several reasons:
  - Cost effective due to economies of scale
  - Computer-based assessment
  - Adaptive assessment
  - Variety of assessment tools



# How Will the Test Be Different?

- The new test will include:
  - Several question types: multiple choice, open-ended, complex problems, technology-based problems
  - Questions that adapt to a student's ability and truly measure academic growth
  - A year-end test similar to the ISAT as well as assessment tools teachers can use in the classroom to monitor student progress

# **Sample Test Questions**

# Performance Task

## Math

### High School

#### *Algebra I*

**College Tuition:** Based on your research during the last few days, you may have realized that the cost of a college education in the United States can be expensive. During this performance task, you will use a spreadsheet and your knowledge of functions and statistics to predict the future cost of college tuition.

Part A: Past year's tuition

Part B: Choosing a model

Part C: Predicting future tuition

Part D: Comparing individual tuition and average tuition

Part E: Predicting tuition for the next generation

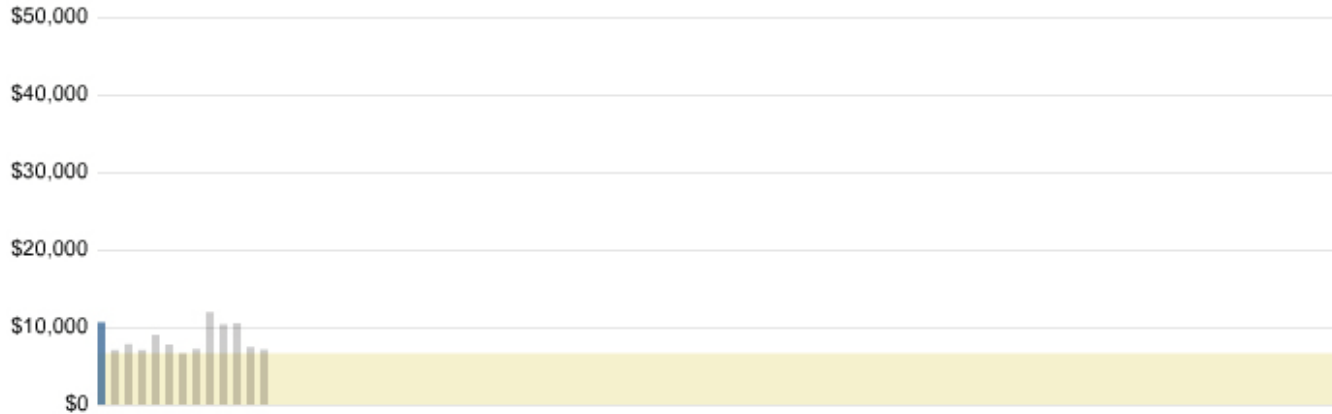


U of Massachusetts, Boston

**2010 In-state tuition & fees**

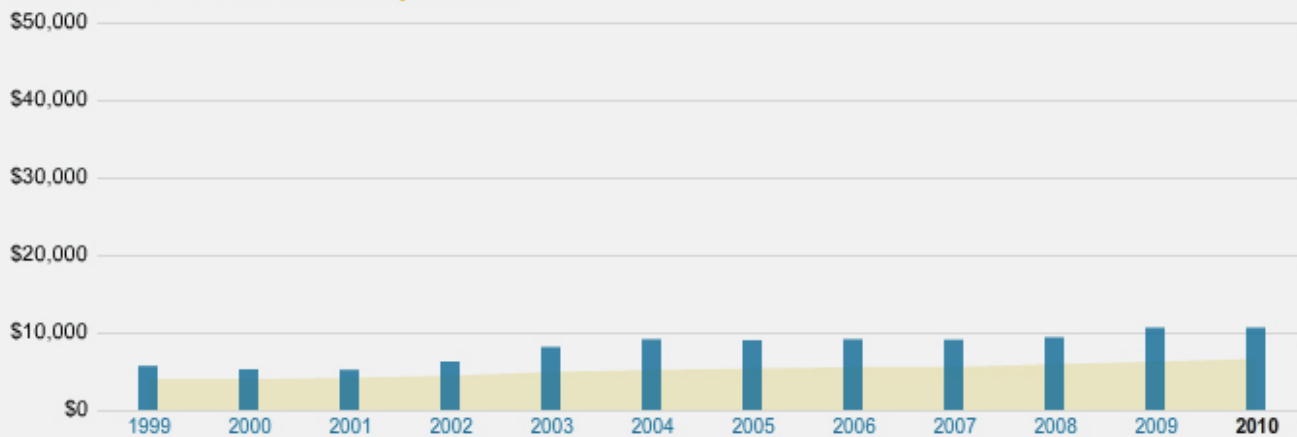
Public 4-year median: \$6,633 +5.6%

ZOOM: ●●●●●

 In-state tuition & fees  
 % change from previous year
**1999-2010 In-state tuition & fees**

Public 4-year median

ZOOM: ●●●●●

 Display all amounts in 2010 dollars


Institution name (state type)	In-state tuition & fees	% change from prev. year
U of Massachusetts, Boston MA   PUBLIC 4	\$10,611	0%
Bridgewater State C MA   PUBLIC 4	\$7,053	9%
Fitchburg State C MA   PUBLIC 4	\$7,800	13%
Framingham State C MA   PUBLIC 4	\$7,065	8%
Massachusetts C of Art and Design MA   PUBLIC 4	\$9,000	7.1%
Massachusetts C of Liberal Arts MA   PUBLIC 4	\$7,750	10.5%
Massachusetts Maritime Academy MA   PUBLIC 4	\$6,609	8%
Salem State U MA   PUBLIC 4	\$7,170	5.6%
U of Massachusetts, Amherst MA   PUBLIC 4	\$11,917	0%
U of Massachusetts, Dartmouth MA   PUBLIC 4	\$10,358	0%
U of Massachusetts, Lowell MA   PUBLIC 4	\$10,506	0.8%
Westfield State C.	\$7,431	5.9%

# Performance Task

## ELA

### Grade 4

**Part 1:** Watch a video about exercise in space.

**Part 2:** Answer questions that require students to analyze the video.

Why does the video compare being in space to lying in bed?

- (A) to tell how an astronaut needs sleep
- (B) to describe how an astronaut floats in space
- (C) to explain that an astronaut's work is very difficult
- (D) to show how an astronaut's body lacks gravity to help it work

**Part 3:** Write a paragraph about the video. Use evidence from the video to support your claims.

Explain why exercise is important for astronauts while they are in space. Use two details from the video to support your answer.

# Writing Portion

## ELA

### Grade 6

Read the text and complete the task that follows it.

#### Cell Phones in School—Yes or No?

Cell phones are convenient and fun to have. However, there are arguments about whether or not they belong in schools. Parents, students, and teachers all have different points of view. Some say that to forbid them completely is to ignore some of the educational advantages of having cell phones in the classroom. On the other hand, cell phones can interrupt classroom activities and some uses are definitely unacceptable. Parents, students, and teachers need to think carefully about the effects of having cell phones in school.

Some of the reasons to support cell phones in school are as follows:

- Students can take pictures of class projects to e-mail or show to parents.
- Students can text-message missed assignments to friends that are absent.
- Many cell phones have calculators or Internet access that could be used for assignments.
- If students are slow to copy notes from the board, they can take pictures of the missed notes and view them later.
- During study halls, students can listen to music through cell phones.
- Parents can get in touch with their children and know where they are at all times.
- Students can contact parents in case of emergencies.

Some of the reasons to forbid cell phones in school are as follows:

- Students might send test answers to friends or use the Internet to cheat during an exam.
- Students might record teachers or other students without their knowledge. No one wants to be recorded without giving consent.
- Cell phones can interrupt classroom activities.
- Cell phones can be used to text during class as a way of passing notes and wasting time.

Based on what you read in the text, do you think cell phones should be allowed in schools? Using the lists provided in the text, write a paragraph arguing why your position is more reasonable than the opposing position.

# Extended Constructed Response

## Math

### Grade 8

The total cost of an order of shirts from a company consists of the cost of each shirt plus a one-time design fee. The cost of each shirt is the same regardless of how many shirts are ordered. The company provides the following examples to customers to help them estimate the total cost of an order of shirts:

50 shirts cost \$349.50

500 shirts cost \$2370

#### *Part A*

Based on the examples, what is the cost of each shirt, **not** including the one-time design fee?

Explain how you found your answer.

#### *Part B*

What is the cost of the one-time design fee?

Explain how you found your answer.

**For more examples, including  
technology-enhanced  
assessment items, visit:**

**English language arts/literacy:**

<http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/ELA.htm>

**Mathematics:**

<http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/index.htm>



# Timeline for Implementation

- **Spring 2013: Scientific Pilot**
  - About 120 Idaho schools participated in the scientific pilot this spring to provide feedback on administration and items. Tests were not scored.
- **Summer 2013: Practice Test**
  - Practice Tests will be available at the end of May with sample items for every grade level. Teachers can use these in lesson plans, and schools can use these in professional development and training.



# Timeline for Implementation

- **Spring 2014: Field Test**
  - Idaho schools will participate in a field test of the new year-end assessment to set cut scores and field test items before full administration.
- **Spring 2015: First Administration**
  - The first assessment aligned to the new Idaho Core Standards will be given to Idaho students in Spring 2015.
  - Idaho partnered with other states to develop the new assessment. We will choose how to administer it in 2015 and beyond.



# What Can We Expect

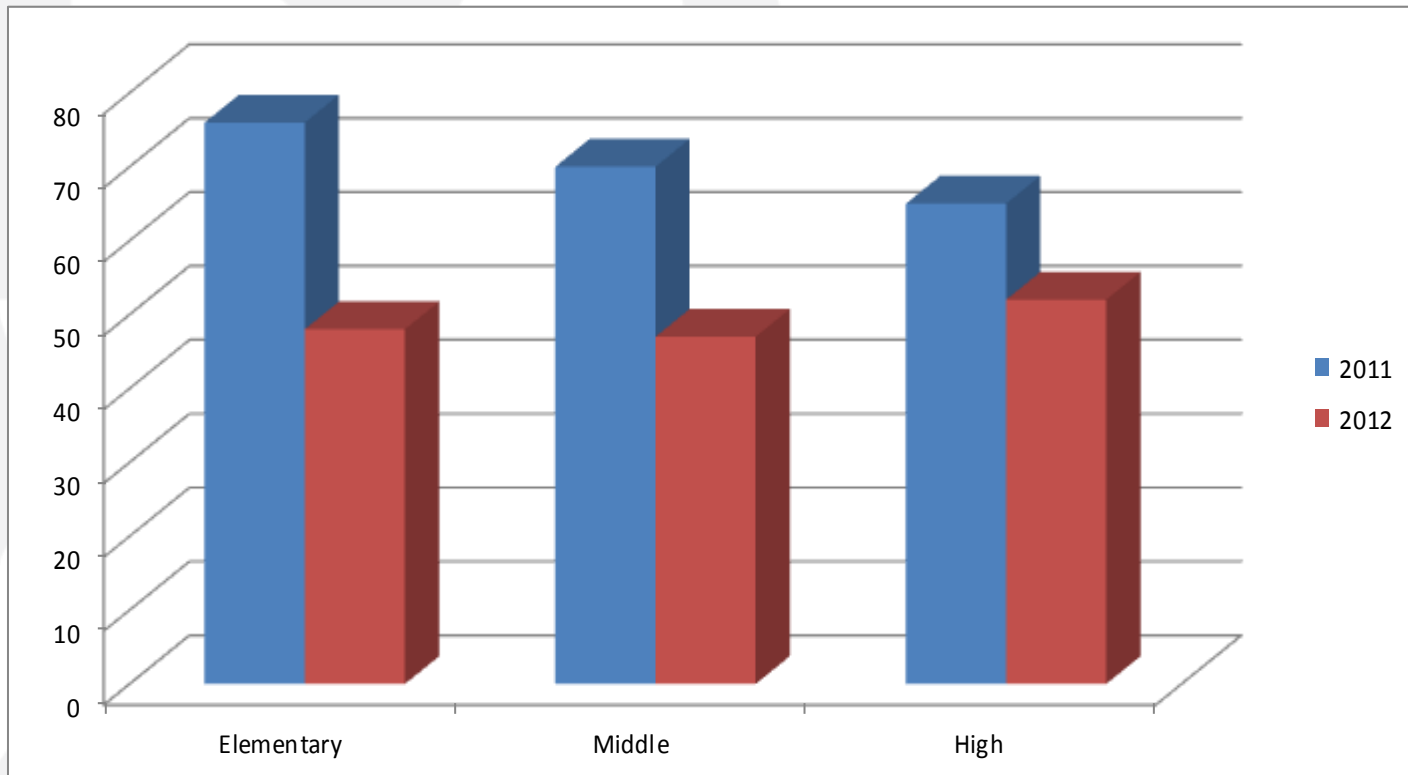
- In 2015, we know not as many students will be on grade level as before because these standards are **higher**.
- Kentucky Example:
  - The state of Kentucky already implemented higher academic standards and tested students against these standards.
  - In Kentucky, the number of students scoring on grade level dropped by about one-third.





# Kentucky Example

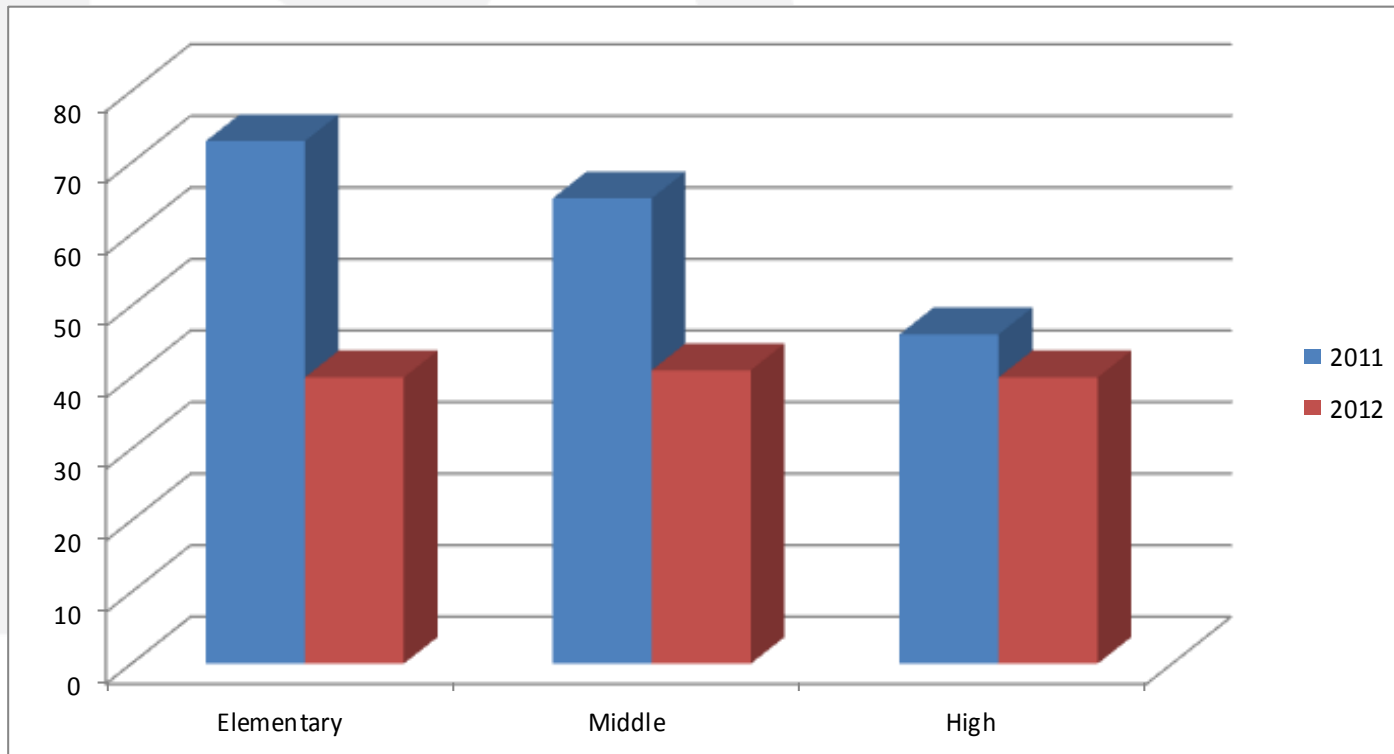
## Kentucky reading scores





# Kentucky Example

## Kentucky math scores



# Questions



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