Smarter Balanced Practice Test – Preparing Students

Set the Stage

- Explain the end-of-year assessment, CAASPP to the students.
- Explain the similarities or differences with CAASPP and other tests students have taken (MAP, STAR, etc.).
- Explain that teachers are not permitted to “help students answer an item or manipulate an item type” during the live test, the practice test gives students experience with the tools using a grade-level assessment.
- Note: The practice test is not intended to show all content, item types or vocabulary that students might encounter in the live test, it introduces students to the format and tools.
- Note: It is important to use the same type of device (i.e. Chromebook) the students will use during testing to ensure they begin to have a command on how to navigate the device.

Show the practice test interface

- Model the opening screens for the class.
- Show them the choices they may be able to make when they take the live test.
- Explain that there will be some buttons that always appear on the test and other menus/tools that can be used when needed.

Student Exploration

Assist students with logging into the practice test. To enter the practice test, go to www.caaspp.org OR www.sanjuan.edu/testing and select Student Interface Practice and Training Tests.

- On the screen, review the Testing Instructions and Help page.
- Review what happens when using each of the embedded tools/supports.

Training Test:

- Individually or with a partner, have students access the ELA or Math practice test.
- Have students explore the different tools while providing guided support as they move through the questions. The test is not adaptive, so either allow them to explore or go through questions individually.
- Focus on:
  - Teach student effective test-taking skills (ex. reading and rereading the directions for clarification, etc.)
  - Experiencing different item types
  - Learning to navigate with the buttons and screen commands (Ask this questions: how might a specific button/tool (highlighter, glossary, strikethrough) help me in this item?)
  - If taking the math practice test: Use the Math Keypad and Graphing Tools to have students experience entering numeric answers using a keypad and/or creating a graph.

Next Steps: After using the practice test, note where students experienced difficulty and consider how these points can be addressed through normal classroom instruction. Consider taking the ELA Performance Task (grade specific) or Math Performance Task (grade specific) for next steps.