

College and career readiness standards require a new kind of test

Current college and career readiness standards target deep content knowledge and complex skills in reading, writing, language, and mathematics. These qualities are essential building blocks for the knowledge, skills, and abilities students need to be prepared for higher education or career training.

Many states have made the transition to college and career readiness standards for their annual accountability assessment program. Districts, too, want to address the higher-order skills that statewide assessments

aim for, but few options for interim assessments measure the depth and breadth of the standards that are consistent with their state tests.

Assessments that meet today's standards must elicit evidence of student understanding, use authentic texts, and require students to solve real-world problems at a high level of rigor. Designing assessments that can accomplish those goals requires a new approach, new assessment content, and an understanding of the intent—not just the letter—of the standards. For districts, finding these assessments can be a challenge.

A new solution for district interim assessment

Measured Progress has created an assessment solution, eMPower Assessments™, that provides early prediction of college and career readiness. Fully aligned to college and career readiness standards, it creates continuity from elementary and middle school through high school measures. With eMPower, educators gain a cohesive program for grades 3–8 with a direct connection to the College Board's SAT® Suite of Assessments. The program can measure interim growth and provide year-end summative accountability if used as the state-level summative assessment measure.

eMPower provides educators with reliable data they can use to make meaningful inferences about student achievement and to track academic progress toward college and career.

With eMPower Assessments, educators can:

- measure growth and check progress toward standards
- inform instructional planning
- make decisions about program effectiveness



College and career readiness standards require new test questions

eMPower Assessments were built according to research from the National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers on the knowledge and skills students must have in order to be prepared for high school and beyond in reading, writing, and mathematics.

For example, the research on mathematics learning and cognition demonstrates that mathematical proficiency depends on students' abilities to use mathematical practices such as problem solving, reasoning, and modeling—not just on their grasp of concepts and procedures.

Multi-dimensional content development

eMPower Assessments mathematics questions, or items, address both concepts and procedures *and* mathematical practices. Measured Progress content developers delved into the eight math practices to create detailed item specifications and “focus points” for each practice. Each eMPower math assessment includes items that address a range of focus points

within each mathematical practice to better reach the intent of the new standards. Items are aligned and coded to both a mathematical practice and to a concept or procedure—to yield a greater depth and breadth of insight for educators making instructional decisions.

Single-dimensional item that represents the old way of measurement

The figure below is a rectangular prism.



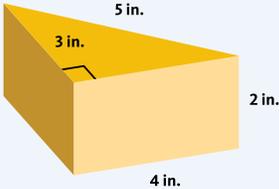
What is the surface area of the figure?

- A 56 cm²
- B 64 cm²
- C 112 cm²
- D 128 cm²

This item measures students' ability to find and calculate surface area without a real-world context. It is devoid of meaning, such that students may be able to solve the problem, but not make the cognitive leap to understand how they would apply the skill within their daily life.

Multi-dimensional item that demonstrates the shifts in standards

A piece of cheese is shaped like a right triangular prism.



The entire surface of the cheese will be covered with a wax coating. What is the total area of the cheese coated by the wax?

- A 20 sq. in.
- B 26 sq. in.
- C 32 sq. in.
- D 36 sq. in.

This item asks the student to find the surface area for a real-world purpose: they need to know how much wax coating will cover a piece of cheese. This item is coded to the 7.G.B.6 7th-grade Geometry Concepts and Procedures standard that requires a student to solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, volume and surface area of two- and three-dimensional objects. It is also coded to the mathematical practice 2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

The above examples illustrate the difference between 7th grade math test questions written to the new standards and those written to older standards. The reading and writing standards have similar significant shifts that require a new approach to content.



College and career readiness standards require eMPower Assessments

What evidence do educators need, to know that students are demonstrating progress toward readiness for college and careers?

This fundamental question underpinned all decisions—from selection of content standards, to test design and development, to reporting requirements for eMPower Assessments.

All eMPower items and stimuli were newly developed to meet the intent of new college and career readiness standards using evidence-centered design principles. So they aren't just old items that are edited or back-aligned—they deliver the appropriate level of rigor and reach the full multi-dimensionality of the standards. Every test presents a range of

task difficulty, so that students can experience and respond successfully to an appropriate level of challenge.

eMPower Assessments test designs balance the need for meaningful information with the demands on classroom time. Test sessions are structured to fit within a class period. This setup provides students with sufficient opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, and ensures that reported scores are reliable—giving you confidence to use the data to tell where students are on their paths toward college and career readiness.

valid

- Items undergo multiple rounds of expert review to assure their accuracy, lack of bias, and alignment to standards
- Student responses provide evidence that supports meaningful inferences from test results

reliable

- Results are based on the same psychometric analyses and quality standards used in high-stakes assessment
- Student proficiency levels accurately identify areas of need

evidence-based

- Tests and items are designed to elicit the responses and data needed for meaningful reports
- All new test items are created to the new standards and based on learning progressions

A new test for new standards: eMPower Assessments. empowerSAT.measuredprogress.org



It's all about student learning.

