

# Parents'

## *Tips for Testing*

Students will take a new state test this spring called the Smarter Balanced test.

It's not the same kind of test students are used to taking, so it will be an adjustment for them.

Our school will be sending out six "Parents' Tips for Testing" to help you help your student prepare for test time.

If you have questions about tests, please contact our school office. Thank you!



## Tip #5: Think analytically

The Smarter Balanced test will challenge students to think critically about their answers and write an explanation.

For example, the reading test may ask students to answer questions like these about a text/topic:

- What is the theme of the passage?

What conclusion does the passage draw? Point to evidence in the passage that supports your answer.

- Define specific words found in the passage.
- Are the author's arguments effective?

The test may offer multiple choice options, and it may ask students to write a paragraph to answer the question. As you would expect, the difficulty will vary by grade.

You can help your student by talking with them about something they have read and asking "why" questions. Here are some questions you can ask to help them think analytically about a text:

- What is special about \_\_\_\_\_'s (a character's) accomplishment? Why do you think so?
- How does the character change during the story?
- What is the overall tone of the text? What makes you think so?
- What sources does the author draw from?
- What would be another way to look at \_\_\_\_\_ (an occurrence or character in the story)?

Find more information about preparing for the Smarter Balanced test, including practice test links:

[www.skgradguide.com/doing/state-tests](http://www.skgradguide.com/doing/state-tests)

