

Preparing Our Students for...



Technology Skills...

KEYBOARDING SKILLS:

Click and type in a text box

- Delete/Backspace
- Shift
- Tab
- Return
- Space Bar
- Punctuation

OTHER TECH SKILLS:

- Navigate backward and forward arrows NOT on the browser
- Play and replay videos and/or audio recordings
- Become familiar with the tech tools such as the equation editor and on screen calculator
- Note taking on the provided tool
- Draw line segments
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MOUSE SKILLS:

- Move mouse pointer on the screen.
- Use mouse to single, double and right click
- Move mouse to highlight text on a screen
- Click and Drag/ Drag and Drop: Move items to a different location within the screen.
- Select/Deselect: Choose by checking and unchecking boxes
- Highlight: Color or shade in areas, text and objects on a screen.
- Hover: To move the cursor over an object or word (hot spot).
- Scroll using a vertical as well as horizontal bar
- Select radio buttons
- Use drop down menus

Test-taking Skills...

- Practice selecting multiple answers and giving multiple choices.
- Expose students to tasks such as ordering sentences or building equations.
- Help students understand test vocabulary such as "pick the BEST answer" or "arrange events in order."
- Encouraging students to look back at the texts frequently including math texts

Other...

- Build stamina in reading lengthy passages and recalling information. Students will be tempted to read part of the text and then start answering the questions on the right
- Build stamina working on the computer. Explain to students they may be on the same "page" reading a story and answering questions for quite a long time.
- Encourage students to bring any tech issues up right away ("I can't get my mouse to work." "The headphones are not loud enough.")
- Encourage students to try things that are hard. Encourage them to stick with it even when a problem becomes difficult.
- Prepare students for a mix of reading formats, from fiction to informational texts.
- Teach note-taking skills, so that students write down important details and vocabulary as they read. There is a tech feature for this right on the Smarter Balanced test.
- Develop vocabulary lessons in a way that is meaningful and in context. Help students figure out the meaning of a word from the text instead of teaching them the meaning directly.
- Engage students in a variety of writing experiences where students must cite evidence and use sophisticated vocabulary.
- Focus on the content required in the new standards and making the connections across disciplines. The ELA reading passages may be connected to social studies or science topics. Be sure to incorporate content area texts into your reading lessons.
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Things You Can Do Now...

- Take the practice Smarter Balanced test yourself (even if you are a K-2 or related art teacher!!) Take several grade levels and jot down notes about how you will improve your instruction to help build capacity in our students. (<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>)
- Embed teaching these skills and strategies into your everyday teaching. Don't wait for "test prep time." Develop questions about your content that are similar to the format being asked on Smarter Balanced.
- Take a deep breath! The first year for anything is hard. Continue to do outstanding teaching and build up the confidence of our students all around.