

The Field Test is comprised of two separate assessments: the non-performance task (non-PT) items and the Classroom Activity/performance task (PT). Smarter Balanced recommends that students take the PT and the non-PT items on separate days in the following sequence:

- 1. Non-PT items
- 2. Classroom Activity
- 3. PT items

If districts/schools elect to administer these in a different order, the Classroom Activity **must** always occur prior to the administration of the PT.

Descriptions of the Classroom Activity and performance task are provided in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Descriptions

	Administration Setting	Description
Classroom Activity	Administered in a classroom setting	The Classroom Activity precedes the administration of the computer-based performance task. The main purpose of the Classroom Activity is to ensure that all students have a common understanding, at a minimal level, of the contextual elements of a PT topic so they are not disadvantaged in demonstrating the skills the task intends to assess. Contextual elements may include the following: • an understanding of the setting or situation in which the task
		 is placed; potentially unfamiliar concepts that are associated with the scenario (e.g., how stocks are traded on the stock market or how fines are calculated for speeding tickets); and/or key terms or vocabulary students will need to understand in order to meaningfully engage with and complete the PT. Key terms are analyzed to determine whether they meet one of the following criteria:
		 They are on the upper end of grade-level appropriateness; or They are unique to the context of the topic and may be unfamiliar based on a student's background or culture. The Classroom Activities do not pre-teach content that will be assessed in the performance task.
Performance Task (PT)	Computer- administered in a secure testing environment	The performance task is an individually administered, computer- generated task. The PT requires students to answer a set of complex questions that are centered on a common theme or problem.

The following guidelines provide information and instructions on how to administer the Classroom Activity and performance task.



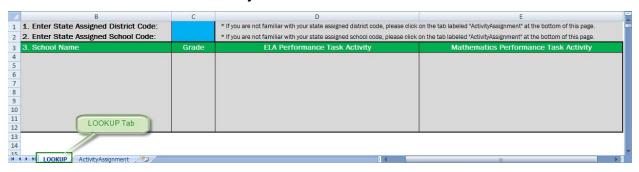
Steps for Administration

Classroom activities are assigned by grade for each individual school. Refer to the spreadsheet found on the field-test portal to identify your assigned Classroom Activity (http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/).

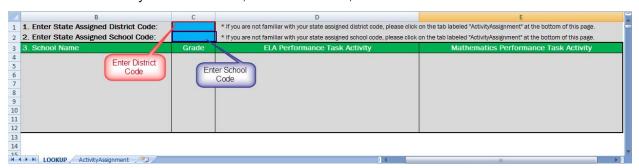
1. Identify your Classroom Activity.

After you locate your state's spreadsheet, there are two options to identify which Classroom Activity your school and/or grades have been assigned. If you know your district and school code, use option 1. If you do not know your school and district code, use option 2. You will use the directions below to identify which Classroom Activity has been selected for your class to administer.

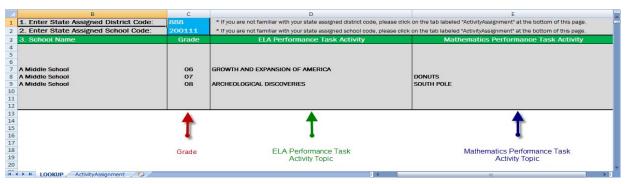
OPTION 1: Locate the Classroom Activity via the LOOKUP tool.



Enter your district code, as listed in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), into Column C Row 1 and your school code, as listed in TIDE, into Column C Row 2.



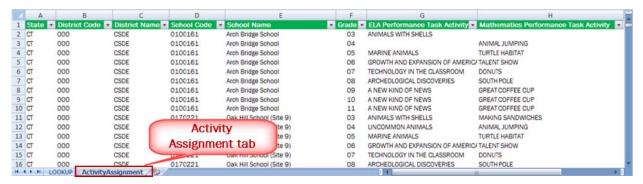
Press [ENTER] on your keyboard. The ELA and/or mathematics assignments for each grade at the selected school will be populated.



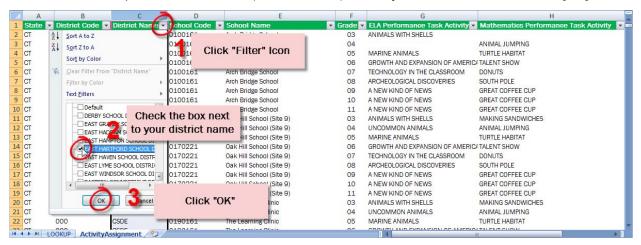


OPTION 2: Locate the Classroom Activity via filtering.

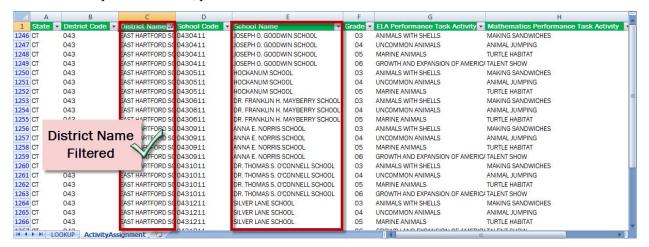
Click on the tab labeled "Activity Assignment" at the bottom of the spreadsheet and use the filter function within the document to sort for your school.



Select the filter drop-down in Column C (District Name), select your district, and then click [OK].

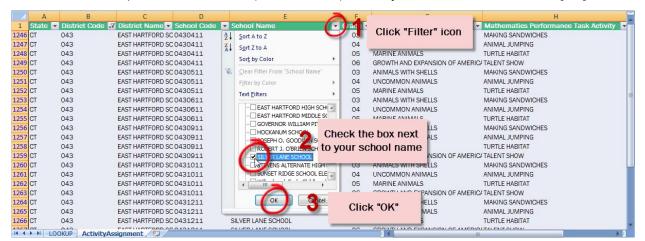


Once filtered by district name, you will see a subset of schools in Column E.

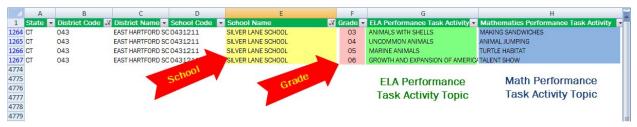




Select the filter drop-down in Column E (School Name), select your school, and then click [OK].



ELA and/or mathematics assignments for each grade at the selected school will be populated.



2. Download the Classroom Activity.

You will need to download and review the Classroom Activity at least one to two days prior to the planned delivery of your Classroom Activity. Classroom Activities will be posted on the portal webpage at http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/ in alphabetical order. By clicking on your Classroom Activity, you can print and/or save the materials. Carefully review the TA directions for the Classroom Activity, located in Section 9.5 and Appendix A in the Online Field Test Administration Manual, to ensure that you know how to prepare for and carry out the Classroom Activity.

3. Administer the Classroom Activity.

- Classroom activities are designed to fit into one 30-minute window. While the exact timing
 will vary due to the complexity of the topic and individual student needs, a Classroom Activity
 should be administered in a single session.
- The Classroom Activity involves interactions between the teacher or TA and students. It is recommended that all students have an opportunity to interact with teachers or TAs and—when appropriate—peers during the Classroom Activity. In the event a student is absent during the Classroom Activity, a make-up session must be scheduled. The make-up session should provide students with an experience similar to that of his or her peers. To the greatest extent possible, the make-up session should provide students an opportunity to interact with the teacher or TA and his or her peers.



- The Classroom Activities are nonsecure. Each Classroom Activity includes specific directions. Any tables, graphics, formulas, or other information contained in the materials for the Classroom Activity may be displayed for students. Similarly, the teacher or TA should be able to write notes for students to see (such as on a chalkboard or dry-erase board). Computers, projectors, and other technology are allowed for the Classroom Activity.
- Each Classroom Activity includes strategies that teachers or TAs can use to address special needs and increase accessibility.

Students may take notes during this time, but the notes must be collected before proceeding to the PT. Students may not use notes taken during the Classroom Activity for the PT.

4. Administer the performance task.

The students must work independently on their PT responses; instructions will be delivered to them in the Test Delivery System.

English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)

The ELA PT consists of two parts. As noted in the *ELA Timing and Sequencing* document (http://sbac.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ELA-Timing-and-Sequencing.pdf), it is recommended that each part be administered on a separate day. In Part 1, students will read sources and answer research questions. During Part 2, students will provide a written response using those sources. Only in Part 2 of the ELA performance task may students have access to a hard-copy dictionary/thesaurus or to the dictionary/thesaurus that is embedded in the Test Delivery System.

Note 1: If you opt to offer a hard-copy dictionary to your students, it must be a commercially published dictionary in print form. Teacher- or student-created dictionaries are not allowed.

Note 2: ELA performance tasks may require headsets.

Mathematics

As noted in the *Math Timing and Sequencing* document (http://sbac.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Math-Timing-and-Sequencing.pdf), the mathematics performance task should be administered in one session.

Note: Mathematics performance tasks do not require headsets unless needed as an accommodation.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Classroom Activity

1. Who should administer the Classroom Activity?

A certified teacher or other instructional staff should administer the Classroom Activity. It is preferable but not essential that the teacher administering the Classroom Activity have content knowledge in the area of assessment.

2. Can the Classroom Activity be recorded and viewed by students who were absent for the Classroom Activity?

The Classroom Activities are nonsecure and therefore may be recorded; however, the make-up session should provide students with an experience similar to that of his or her peers. To the



greatest extent possible, the make-up session should provide students an opportunity to interact with the teacher and his or her peers.

- Can the Classroom Activity be administered over several days?
 Classroom activities are designed to fit into a single 30-minute window.
- 4. Can the Classroom Activity be administered several times to a group of students?

 The Classroom Activity should be administered once before students participate in the PT. Having students participate in the Classroom Activity multiple times is not advisable.