

Assessment Item Packaging Format Brief

In most cases, states will procure test delivery services from independent vendors who are certified to deliver Smarter Balanced assessments. Smarter Balanced expects that most test delivery vendors will choose one of the scenarios shown in Figure 2:

- Scenario 1: Use the Smarter Balanced open-source system.** In this scenario, a vendor will deploy and support the open-source system developed by Smarter Balanced. The vendor may make small changes to meet unique state needs. In this scenario, they would use the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Packaging Format**.
- Scenario 2: Adapt an existing test delivery system using Smarter Balanced components.** A vendor with an existing test delivery system may choose to incorporate key components from the Smarter Balanced system. These might include the formatting code, the browser-side JavaScript rendering system, the scoring engines, and the adaptive engine. In this scenario, it would be most convenient to use the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Packaging Format**.
- Scenario 3: Tune an existing test delivery system to meet Smarter Balanced requirements.** A vendor with an existing test delivery system—especially one that uses IMS APIP—formatted items—may choose to tune its existing system to meet Smarter Balanced requirements for the adaptive engine and enhanced item types. In this scenario, the vendor is more likely to use the **Smarter Balanced Profile of the IMS APIP Format**.

Smarter Balanced is presently planning a program for releasing all of the specifications and support that vendors need in order to be certified to deliver Smarter Balanced assessments. Interested parties should watch for an announcement of this program in early 2014.

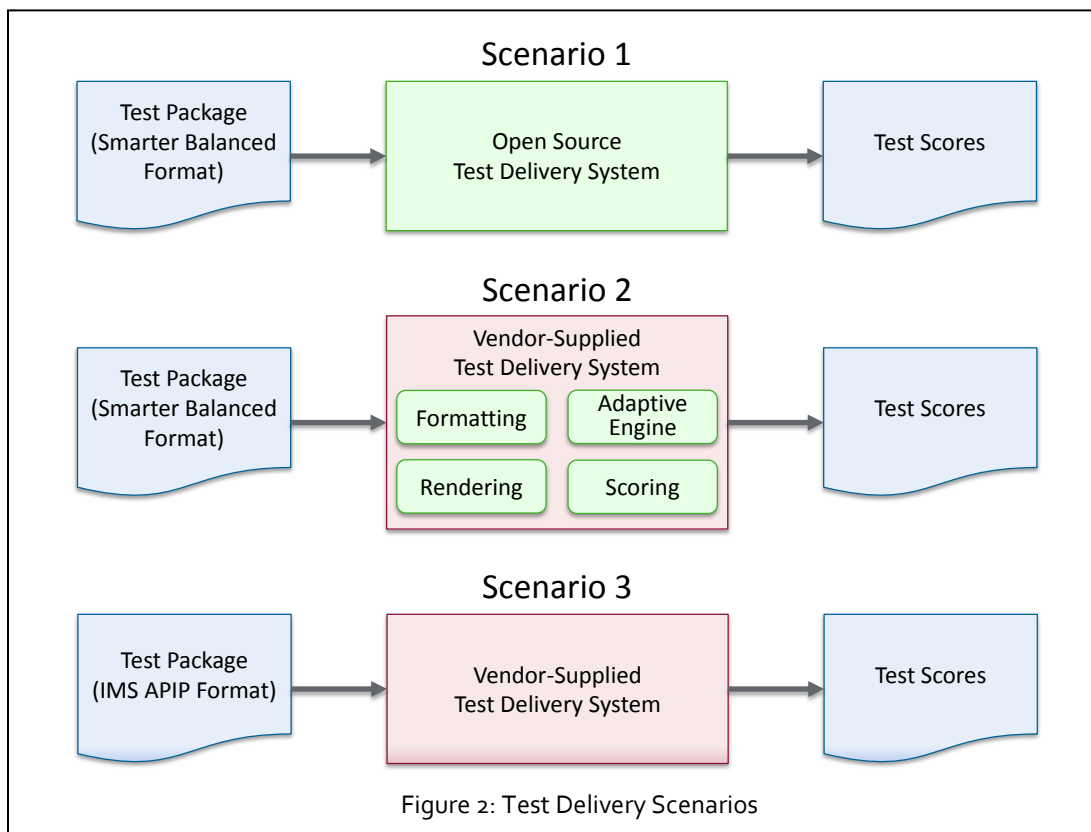


Figure 2: Test Delivery Scenarios