

Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Illustrating 5.NBT.A.3b

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Which number makes this inequality true?

$$4253.647 > \square$$

- A. 4253.655
- B. 4253.638
- C. 4253.664
- D. 4253.649

Answer Key

B

Elaboration on Alignment

There is still room in assessments for carefully crafted, multiple-choice items. Comparison items are often difficult to construct because the symbols in early grades are limited to $<$, $>$, and $=$. Providing the symbol as part of the item rather than an answer choice here and asking students to select the one number that makes the comparison true makes good use of an item type. No matter what approach a student uses here, he/she must use place value understanding to decide which number correctly completes the comparison which is well aligned to the standard. Here, we break the conventional rule of presenting the answer choices in order from least to greatest or greatest to least since that is part of the construct we are measuring.

Learn More

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