

Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Illustrating 6.EE.A.3

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Select all of the expressions that are equivalent to $4(5x + 2y)$.

- $9x + 6y$
- $4(5x) + 4(2y)$
- $20x + 8y$
- $20x + 2y$
- $4(7xy)$

Answer Key

2nd and 3rd options

Elaboration on Alignment

In this item, students extend their work with properties of operations from arithmetic [e.g., 4×52 is the same as $4 \times (50 + 2)$] to algebra [e.g., $4(5x + 2y) = 20x + 8y$]. The item sits slightly above the expectation of the standard because they not only have to use properties of operations to determine which expressions are equivalent, but also have to decide why others are not equivalent. In this way, it taps both the procedural skill of 6.EE.A.3 while also attending to the understanding articulated in cluster 6.EE.A. The multiple-select item response format is a good way to integrate the procedural expectations of 6.EE.A.3 with MP 7, which asks students to look for and make use of structure.

Learn More

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