

Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Illustrating 7.SP.A.1

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A principal wants to know if students at a particular high school are in favor of a new dress code at their school. The principal is not able to ask the opinion of every student at the school, so she needs to select an appropriate sample of the students to represent the high school.

Select which sample of students the principal should choose.

- A Students randomly selected from a list of all students at the school.
- B Students sitting at randomly selected tables in the library.
- C Students she selects from the hallway between classes.
- D Students selected by the teachers.

Answer Key

A

Elaboration on Alignment

The purpose of this item is to determine whether students understand factors that can contribute to sample bias. The item provides several possible sampling techniques, and asks the student to choose the one that would yield results that best generalize to a population. The multiple choice format works well for items with this purpose and the distractors provide nice opportunities to discuss why different sampling methods might bias the data collection, analyses and conclusions.

Learn More

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