



Reminder!

NECAP SCIENCE ASSESSMENT UPDATE:

Vermont's science assessment contractor, Measured Progress, will begin shipping test materials to schools next Friday, April 17th. If no one will be available at a school to accept the test shipment because of April vacation, please contact the NECAP Service Center (877-632-7774) to arrange for a different shipping date.

REMINDER: The assessment window for NECAP Science, which is administered to students in grade 4, 8 and 11, is **May 4 through May 28**.

Update on Testing Progress:

2015 SBAC Assessment Tally: WK 4 of 13					
Total # of students registered	Completed the Summative Assessments		Completed the Performance Tasks		Total # of Tests Completed to date:
43,881					44,611 (25%)
Grade / #	ELA	MA	ELA	MA	ALL
11: 7038	2164	1396	1700	1079	6339
8: 6222	2389	1856	1950	1421	7616
7: 6137	2397	1816	2089	1523	7825
6: 6115	1798	1222	1187	865	5072
5: 6144	1573	1276	1183	910	4942
4: 6211	2083	1394	1453	1080	6010
3: 6014	1394	815	1140	780	4129

Message from the Director on Feedback

I'm happy to report that so far the Smarter Balanced testing seems to be going fairly well, but not without a number of areas that need to be improved or clarified before we do this again next year. This year's test results will be reported to parents, community members and the media, and will be used as a baseline for next year's accountability decisions. However, because we will not use test results for accountability this year, it gives us a low stakes opportunity to find out what works, and what does not work in our new assessment system. Here are two issues that have come up repeatedly that need to be clarified in our test administration manuals before next year:

- 1. Test completion** Both the student and test administrator interfaces provide a running tally of the number of test questions a student has completed and still needs to complete. However, because of computer adaptive testing, those numbers may turn out to be a general estimate of test length rather than total items in the student's test. The actual number could be less if an accurate estimate of the student's ability can be determined with less items, or it could be more if the student maxes out the grade specific items at the top or bottom of the scale (and therefore opens up additional items from either higher or lower grade levels). We plan to request a fix for this before next year.
- 2. Test "sections"** The test sections that are referenced in the SBAC test administration manuals for the ELA Performance Task and the grades 6 – 11 Math Summative tests are not the same thing as the test "sessions" that were part of the NECAP design. There are no on-screen indicators or natural breaks that indicate that one session has ended and another has begun, which has led some test administrators to believe that students still had an additional session to finish, when in fact the student had summited a completed test. When the students logged into a new test session, believing they still had work to do, they received a message saying they had no additional test opportunities available. We need to clarify what exactly we mean by a test "section" so we can make better use of our students' and teachers' time. The two math sessions, by the way, are divided into calculator and non-calculator questions, and the final essay on the ELA performance task is considered a separate section.

*These issues, and others brought to our attention by our SU/SD test coordinators and test administrators, are among the entries we are keeping in a log of improvements we will present to SBAC and/or our assessment contractor after we complete testing this year. We are currently developing a mechanism in the portal to make sharing your ideas easier, but in the meantime we would like for you to continue calling or emailing us at the agency. **Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, michael.hock@state.vt.us / 802-479-1288.***

I am a Testing Coordinator who entered Text-to-Speech (TTS) as an accommodation for a 6th grader, but it is not available on my student's test. Why not? There is some confusion in the field about entering TTS. TTS as a designated support can be entered by school-level Test Coordinators. However, as an accommodation, it must be entered by the District Administrator. The accommodation entry will appear as "ELA/CAT: Passages or Passages & Items". The designated support will only appear as "items".

For more information or questions please contact Linda Moreno at 802-479-1309 or linda.moreno@state.vt.us