

3rd Edition: 1/26/15

Weather Cancellations & Switching Workshop Venues:

As you probably know, a winter weather advisory has been posted for Central Vermont beginning late tonight and running into Wednesday morning. Before you set out for tomorrow's District Test Administrator's training in Montpelier, please check to make sure the meeting is still going to occur. Information will be made available by: posting a cancellation notice on the Assessment Portal, a message on Michael Hock's answering machine (802-479-1288), or you can contact the venue (Capitol Plaza Hotel/ 802-223-5252). If the storm is bad enough to also require cancellation of Wednesday's meeting in Killington, the same procedures will apply. The number at the Killington Grand Hotel is 802-422-5001.

January 2015

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

VT—SBAC Newsletter

SBAC— General News

Your VT-SBAC web Portal is open! Check it out.



Message from the Director

"We are pleased to announce that the Vermont Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal has "gone live" and is now available for use by you and your colleagues. The portal will be your main resource for pretty much everything you need to administer our new statewide assessment, including: news and updates, training modules, practice and training tests, Test Administrators Certification Test, secure browser downloads, and the Online Reporting System. The portal is set up for general access, which does not require a password, as well as links to password protected secure information, tools and resources."

Michael Hock

Digital Library



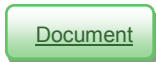
We are spotlighting the Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile (ISAAP) . This system is designed to help you decide which designated supports and/or accommodations are right for your students. There are three resources available with this system: the learning module, the actual tool, and directions. All are available through the Under-Represented Students page in the Smarter Balanced website.



Weekly Field Question: Can parents opt-out of testing their child? What about home-schooled children who are only present for select courses?



Opting-Out: Neither federal rules nor VT State Board policy recognizes a parent opt-out. The law requires schools to be held accountable for all their students. If you honor a parent's request for an opt-out, we are required to enter a score of zero for that student in reporting and accountability. Here is a link to the brief on this topic prepared by the Agency's legal staff:



Home-Schooled Students: Although you are not required to assess students who are home schooled, as a courtesy, parents of home schooled children can make arrangements to have their students tested by their designated public school, but it needs to be at your convenience and when similar students are being tested in your schools (e.g., if the student would be a 4th grader if s/he attended public school, then the student should come in and be tested when you're testing your 4th graders).

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