



March 2015

Special Populations Workshops: Ongoing. AOE is available to come to your district and conduct a Special Populations training on Accessibility, Accommodations, and English Language Learners. If you would like to host a training in your area, please contact Linda Moreno, linda.moreno@state.vt.us / 802-479-1309.

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	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

Message from the Director

You may have read that the American Foundation for the Blind challenged SBAC’s prohibition on use of the Text-to-Speech (TTS) accommodation for students in grades 3, 4 and 5. After due consideration, the Consortium has decided to permit this accommodation for a select group of students who are unable to learn decoding but don’t have an alternative reading system in place. An example of this might be a student who becomes blind because of a recent trauma but has not had the time to learn Braille. The Consortium’s guidance on this update to the Usability, Accessibility and Accommodation Guide (UAAG) can be found [here](#) in the Manuals/Users Guide folder. Please note that this change only permits a human (non-embedded) reader because the current test items for those grade levels are not set up for embedded TTS. Vermont schools interested in using this new support for one of their students should contact Linda Moreno for guidance and approval. **Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, michael.hock@state.vt.us / 802-479-1288**

Technology:

ChromeBook Update ChromeBook Software Update Required for Testing: Smarter Balanced has discovered that certain versions of ChromeOS have an issue that interferes with assessment delivery. For successful administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments on Google Chromebooks, please upgrade your software to version 40.2214.115 or later.

TIDE SU/SD administrators do not have to worry about demographic information as we will do a bulk upload after spring census.

Independent Schools There is now a list of all [public school and district codes](#) available on the portal in the *Test Coordinator’s - General Information* area and in the *AOE Newsletter and Bulletins* area. Independent schools now have a way to input the district code into TIDE for the reporting school. Any independent school, not yet registered, should contact Frank Gerdeman as soon as possible to get set up in TIDE. frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us / 802-479-1381



What is the difference between TIDE and the Test Delivery System (TDS)?

TIDE manages Educator roles, student information and student support and accommodation settings, and allows for the creation of student rosters (not required for testing).

TDS manages test sessions, initiates testing, provides access to the appeal process, and allows the TA to turn universal tools off/back on (accessed through the TA interface).

For more information or questions please contact Linda Moreno at 802-479-1309 or

linda.moreno@state.vt.us.

