



**LAST DAY TO ORDER PAPER /PENCIL TESTS: FRIDAY, MAY 22nd.**

**TWENTY FIVE DAYS AND COUNTING:** As of today there are 25 school days remaining until the Smarter Balanced assessment window closes on June 12. Our current best estimate is that about 60% of the students we expect to be tested have finished all parts of the exam. We have also noted that a few dozen schools have not started any testing. This is not a reason for concern, but we want to be sure that you know we are available to help if you are having difficulty with the new technologies, testing procedures or policies.

**Update on Testing Progress:**

2015 SBAC Assessment Tally: WK 8 of 13					
Total # of students registered	Completed the Summative Assessments		Completed the Performance Tasks		Total # of Tests Completed to date:
43,894					106,562 (61%)
Grade / #	ELA	MA	ELA	MA	ALL
11: 7009	4573	4080	4168	3743	16,564
8: 6246	4710	4139	4317	3669	16,835
7: 6132	4604	4024	4065	3502	16,195
6: 6116	3990	3513	3393	2743	13,639
5: 6151	4012	3768	3501	3216	14,497
4: 6224	4438	4179	3937	3948	16,502
3: 6015	3316	3303	2914	2797	12,330

VT—SBAC Newsletter

**Message from the Director: More on Parent OPT-Out / Refusal**

“Recently we have received a few calls from parents who were given the impression by local teachers or administrators that they needed to contact the Agency of Education for approval of testing opt-out requests. Although we are always glad to provide parents with information on this topic, as we noted in the [April 17th edition](#) of the VT SBAC Newsletter, the Agency **cannot take action on these requests through our test exemption process** and therefore must refer the parents back to their local school administrators for a response to the request. The information we provide parents is consistent: (a) both state and federal law require schools to be accountable for all their students, (b) the only legitimate exemptions are for health reasons, (c) neither the state, the district or the school is authorized to permit a parent opt-out, and (d) if the local school permits the opt-out a score of “0” will be recorded for accountability purposes and the student will be considered a non-participant.”

**PRAISE FOR VERMONT TEST COORDINATORS!** “Yesterday, before I left work, I approved about a dozen appeals to re-open or restart tests, extend grace periods, etc. This morning, about 6:30 AM, I went to the appeals section of TIDE and found 15 new appeals. So, last night between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am at least 7 of you were working on your test administration. This is just one example of the great services that are being provided by our School and District Test Coordinators, and very likely why Vermont is not experiencing many of the implementation problems we’re hearing about in other states. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for making our first experience with the new tests smooth, uneventful and, we hope, engaging for students.” **Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, michael.hock@state.vt.us / 802-479-1288**



**Professional Development through the Digital Library:** The Digital Library has plenty of opportunities for educators to become familiar with the Common Core, instructional methods, and of course, assessing students. See the most recent [flier](#) for discussion panels and webinars.

**Teacher Page on Smarter Balanced Website:** If you haven’t already checked out the Teacher Page of the Smarter website, you may want to check out some of the current topics. Also included on this page are spotlights on Digital Library resources and links to Common Core Standards.



**Interims: Assessment Viewing Application (AVA)** The Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) is now available on the Vermont Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal. AVA allows TIDE users to view the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments items and performance tasks without starting a test session. AVA only allows users to view the interim tests and is **not** available for summative tests. District Administrators can assign the TIDE user role of Test Administrator (TA) to district staff (i.e. Curriculum Coordinators responsible for professional development) who might not have access to student test results. View the [AVA User Guide](#) for more information.



**I found out that I need to get state approval for assigning the non-embedded Read Aloud Accommodation for students in grades 3-5. How do I go about getting permission?** A form was recently posted to the VT-SBAC portal in the Special Populations Resources section. From this week moving forward, please fill this out and submit it for approval. If you have already tested, you do not need to submit the form.

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

