

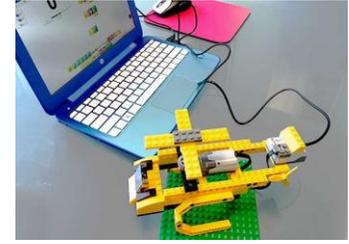
Smarter Balanced Assessment Team

For more information or to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please contact:

Linda Moreno

Assessment Coordinator for Special Populations
802-479-1309

Linda.moreno@vermont.gov



From the Test Director: Time to close the assessment window, but please give us some feedback before you do.

This is going to be our last weekly newsletter, but we will be checking in monthly. The test delivery system will go dark on Monday, June 20th, but we know many of you have already closed your assessment window and have moved on to the end of your school year and a well-deserved summer break.

For the Agency's Assessment Team, this year's Smarter Balanced administration has given us much to celebrate. First and foremost, we've had another year of relatively glitch-free technology, and when things weren't working quite right, the vast majority of the issues were resolved. Most important of all, while we were addressing the issues that did come up, no student work was lost. We were also very pleased that we succeeded in providing a quick turn-around of student results, and were able to have test scores reported to both a testing school and a reporting school, which in return helped sending schools monitor the success of students placed at independent schools and programs. Finally, for the first time ever, one of those independent schools paid to have their non-public students take the Smarter Balanced assessment, presumably finding some value in having the results for ALL their students. It's hard for me to express how pleased I was that a school wanted to give the assessment even though in this case it was not required.

Speaking of value, while we acknowledge that standardized testing is not without its problems, we firmly believe that Smarter Balanced is an important tool in the Agency's endeavors to make Vermont's great schools even greater. It is, in fact, the only measure of success we have that holds our students and our schools to a common set of standards. Our hope is that schools also see value in the test results – for changing and improving systems, or maybe as a vehicle for discussing a student's strengths and challenges with a parent and that the value, in some way, justifies the effort that is required. We can't thank you enough for all the work you do to make this happen.

Before we completely close down Smarter Balanced for this school year, we need to ask you to do one more thing. **Please take a few minutes to give us feedback on this year's assessment.** You will find a link to the survey tool in the left margin and on the [VT-SBAC portal](#).

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director

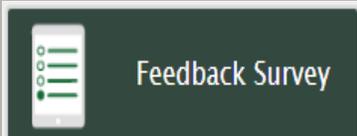
Questions?

Please contact:

Help Desk (AIR) for Test Administration & Test Delivery Technologies
vthelpdesk@air.org
844-218-1184

Michael Hock (AOE) for Policies and Procedures
Michael.hock@vermont.gov
802-479-1288

Linda Moreno
Accessibility and Accommodations for Special Populations
Linda.moreno@vermont.gov
802-479-1309





From the Inbox

To: Michael Hock
 From: A District Test Administrator
 Re: Scoring of SBAC Writing

Hi Michael, I have a question about a student's test. I was completing one final search to make sure all the students completed their testing, and a student appeared in the list who I am pretty sure was not previously listed. His test (ELA PT) is now expired. I checked and saw that he does have a score of a 3 for ELA. Is it possible that there was a tech glitch of some kind? Can we reopen the test and make sure he completed it? What should I do? I appreciate your help.

You've uncovered a mystery I hadn't seen before. Here's what's happened:

- The student, in fact, started but did not complete the ELA PT.
- This means your test completion report was correct.
- After 10 days of inactivity, incomplete tests expire and are automatically submitted for scoring.
- This means that it is also correct that the student has scores for both Math and ELA
- Apparently the student did well enough on the parts of the ELA test he completed to end up with an overall proficiency score of 3. However, his scores would have been much better if he had completed the PT because he missed the long essay which has quite a few points attached to it. You'll probably want to share this information with the student and parents because the ELA score is a low estimate of what he is actually capable of doing.

Michael Hock

Follow-up:

After this e-mail exchange we learned that even though the test was submitted and scored, it was still possible to submit an appeal to re-open the test so the student can finish. He has agreed to do that, and we expect to see a much higher score.

Educator Opportunities Update: Digital Library & Item Reviews

Digital Library: The dates and location for the summer workshop will be from **July 26th through the 27th in Dallas, Texas**. Vermont was awarded seven slots. I have reserved these slots for educators who were not selected for the Item work. Those selected for the Digital Library work should receive their invitations early part of next week.

Item Mapping from Interims to Digital Library

CRESST is assisting Smarter Balanced on the work centered on the development of resources which connect the Digital Library with the Assessment Blocks (IABs). Their workshop will be held at the UCLA campus in **Los Angeles, California on July 12-14th**. If you submitted an application last month via the online link, then your application was forwarded to CRESST for consideration. Two teachers were selected from Vermont on the first round (invitations went out on June 3rd). If you were not contacted for this work, you may still be invited on or after June 10th, during the second wave of invitations.



Digital Library



Educator Opportunities

Assessment Item Review: Invitations are due to come out this week. Similar to Item Mapping above, if you do not get accepted on the first round, your name will be put on a waitlist. I have the list of educators selected for this work. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to know your status. Keep in mind that educators who were not selected for Item Review were given priority status for the Digital Library work.

- Math Data Review: Monday, July 25 – July 28 in Dallas, TX
- ELA Data Review: Monday, July 25 – July 29 in Dallas, TX
- Math Item Review: Monday, August 15 – August 18 in Denver, CO
- ELA Item Review: Monday, August 15 – August 19 in Denver, CO

Note: If for any reason, you are unable to attend any of these workshops, please contact Smarter Balanced and copy Linda Moreno at linda.moreno@vermont.gov. I would like to be able to keep your slot and offer it to another Vermont educator.

Does the Assessment Team have the testing windows for the 2016/17 school year?

Generally speaking, yes. However, one must keep in mind that belonging to a consortium, in some cases, means states will vote on the assessment windows. These votes normally happen over the summer. For schools working on next year’s calendar, it is safe to say that the assessments will run along the same time frame.

- SBAC: mid-March (3/14) through May with June being reserved for test make-ups
- DLM: All year - instructionally embedded first window opening in October.
- NECAP: May (May 1-May 25 w/ pickup on 26th) VTAAP: Same as 2015/16.
- WIDA ACCESS 2.0: Late winter (similar to last year). Late January through February

These are approximations pending vendor and consortium approval.

Testing Progress: Completion Tally: Friday, May 27

2016 SBAC Assessment Tally – Vermont: Week 13					
Total # of Students Registered:	Completed the CAT Summative Assessments		Completed the Performance Tasks		Total # of Tests Completed to Date:
42,696					167,108 (97.8%)
Grade / #	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	All
11: 6,096	5,901	5,920	5,847	5,883	23,551
8: 6,114	5,951	5,959	5,943	5,957	23,810
7: 6,021	5,883	5,889	5,877	5,897	23,546
6: 6,102	5,982	5,998	5,982	5,993	23,955
5: 6,184	6,068	6,081	6,067	6,083	24,299
4: 5,978	5,870	5,885	5,873	5,890	23,518
3: 6,201	6,094	6,111	6,100	6,124	24,429

