

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: State Assessment Single Point of Contact

Because of the skill, commitment and hard work of our District Test Administrators (DA), Vermont has had two successful administrations of the Smarter Balanced Assessments. As we prepare for this year's testing, we want to confirm that each Supervisory Union/Supervisory District, as well as all of our independent schools, have designated someone to fill that important role. This week all Superintendents and Independent School Leaders will receive a very short e-mail survey with our most current list of DAs attached. The survey will ask these leaders to either (1) confirm that the person named on the list will continue as the DA, or (2) provide the name and contact information for a new DA.

The District Test Administrator serves as the single point of contact for the SU/SD for all matters pertaining to state assessment (e.g., Smarter Balanced, NECAP Science, DLM Alternate Assessment, and ACCESS 2.0), including the following:

- Receive assessment-related communications from the Agency and disseminate them to key school and district personnel as needed.
- Communicate technology issues and testing irregularities to the Agency.
- Organize staff and assign assessment tasks as needed.
- Review and submit health exemption forms to the agency.
- Initiate and lead the process for assigning passwords that permit access to secure assessment websites.
- Initiate and lead the process for loading student information into the Test Information Delivery Engine (TIDE).
- Ensure that all individuals who will be administering the assessment have completed training protocols.
- Work with schools to create a test administration schedule.
- Monitor testing to ensure that all students have, at a minimum, completed the basic components of the assessment required to be considered a participant (e.g., must take both the Computer Adaptive and Performance Task sections).
- In general, take whatever actions are necessary to ensure that tests are administered according to standardized procedures and disruptions are minimized for students and staff.

We look forward to receiving your survey responses. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director

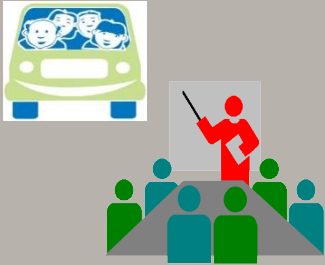
Questions?

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



Vermont Smarter Balanced/AIR Regional Trainings

Registration is now open for the [Vermont Regional Trainings](#). Unlike previous years, we will hold three of the events in the afternoon. Please make sure to note the time of the session when you enter the date in your calendar.

[Tuesday, October 11: Burlington \(1:00-4:00pm\)](#)

Location: Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center
870 Williston Road
Burlington, VT 05403

[Wednesday, October 12: Montpelier \(1:00-4:00pm\)](#)

Location: Capitol Plaza
100 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05602

[Thursday, October 13: Mt. Snow \(1:00-4:00pm\)](#)

Location: Mt. Snow Grand Summit Resort
89 Grand Summit Way
West Dover, VT 05356

[Friday, October 14: Killington \(8:30-11:30am\)](#)

Location: Killington Grand Resort Hotel
228 E Mountain Rd.
Killington, VT 05751

Draft Agenda Topics

The Assessment Team has been getting calls from the field regarding possible topics being covered at the Regional Trainings. Here are a few of the topics that will be covered during the half day training:

- Results & Performance Data
- Communicating Performance Data to Parents
- First and Second Year Comparison
- Navigating Performance Data at the Classroom Level
- *New* TIDE
- AIR WAYS – New Interim Scoring System
- Small “N” Count Performance Data in Small Districts

Districts may send 2 representatives as well as 2 representatives from each school.

Score Reports

Score reports are now available for schools in the Online Reporting System (ORS). In addition to the ORS, [statewide scores](#) have been released on the [Agency of Education website](#). Be sure you are using internet Explorer on Windows and Safari on Mac systems.

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

During each fiscal year, the Agency collects data from Vermont's supervisory unions and school districts. In addition, the agency provides training to help school professionals provide this data.

Interactive Reports

Please note that these reports render best on computers with Internet Explorer on Windows, or Safari on Macs. If you use Firefox or Chrome, the report will not render well.

<p>Science Assessment Reports</p> <p><small>The interactive report for science assessment allows you to select school, year, grade and other variables.</small></p>	<p>English Language Arts and Math Assessment Reports</p> <p><small>The interactive report allows you to select year, subject and other variables.</small></p>	<p>National Assessment Reports</p> <p><small>The interactive report for national assessments allows you to select the year, subject and other variables.</small></p>
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From our Inbox:
To: The Test Director
From: Special Educator

Hey Michael,

It has been requested that I seek an SBAC exemption for one of my students. I have located the appropriate form but am curious to know if there is a deadline for this to be completed. If you could let me know at your convenience, I would appreciate it.

Thanks.

There is no specific deadline for submitting the exemption request, except that it must be done prior to the close of the assessment window in mid-June. However, I would recommend not waiting until the very end in case it's not possible to approve the exemption, and you need to have the student take the test. Also, please keep in mind that we can only approve exemptions for health issues that would prevent the student from participating in assessment for the entire 3 month testing window. Parent opt-out requests should not be submitted to the Agency of Education through the health exemption process because they do not meet the criteria for approval.

Hope this answers your questions.

Michael

Digital Library: Registering New Teachers

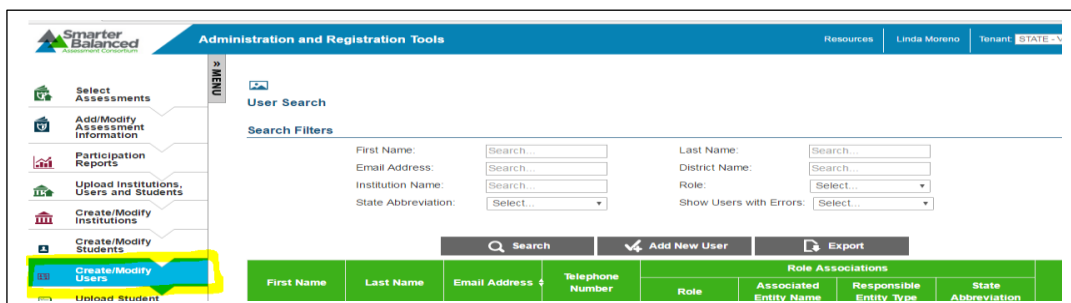
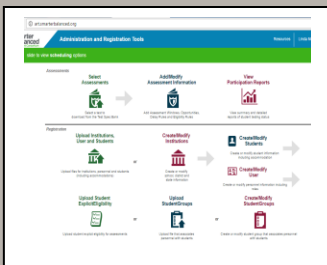
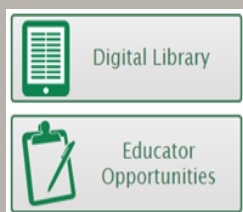
As teachers begin to get settled into a routine, district Digital Library Contacts/Leads may begin to receive requests to access the site. The first step to take is to determine who the Digital Library contact is for your district. In the VT-SBAC portal, there is a list of [Digital Library Contacts](#) (DLC). Please take a moment to determine who your contact is, *and* if that person is current. Next, determine the number of teachers and aides who need to be added. If it is a few, then it might be easier to enter one at a time; however, if you have multiple users, who are located in several schools, you will need a template to upload users. [Templates](#) are also located in the Digital Library section of the portal. If you need to change your DLC, please contact Linda Moreno, 802-479-1309 /

linda.moreno@vermont.gov.

The final step is locating "ART", the testing platform that houses the Digital Library. It is *not* located in TIDE, and there is no link to take you from the portal to the site. If you are the district contact, you will need to add the following link to your favorites:

<http://art.smarterbalanced.org/>.

Not everything on this page applies to VT DLCs. You will only use *Create/Modify User*.



From this page, you will be able to add, modify, and view users in your district.