

Smarter Balanced Assessment Team

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

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Questions?

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From the Test Director: Expedited Reporting

During last year's Smarter Balanced testing window, we introduced a new feature to the online testing system called expedited reporting. This feature made it possible to return an individual student's test results to schools very quickly. Teachers could then use the results to help plan for students' classroom needs and school leaders could begin analyzing school results for a variety of internal purposes. However, to ensure that the system would be used equitably across all our schools, educational leaders agreed to honor an embargo on public reporting that would be in place until all schools had completed testing. As it turned out, the expedited reporting worked as intended, with results coming back to schools within about 10 days from when a student completed testing and our school leaders honored the embargo as requested. Therefore, I'm happy to announce that we will continue making expedited reporting available with the understanding that public reporting will be embargoed until a date sometime after all schools complete testing. We will post that date in a future edition of this newsletter.

For additional information on expedited reporting, please see two editions of last year's Newsletter:

<http://vt.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/VT-SBAC-Vol-2-Issue-6-Feb-22-2016-final.pdf>

<http://vt.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/VT-SBAC-Vol-2-Issue-8-March-11-2016-final.pdf>

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director

New Assessment Team Members!

I'm happy to announce that we have two new members of the Agency's Assessment Team. Gabe McGann will be replacing Andrew Hudacs as our NAEP State Coordinator and Jon Strazza will become our Statewide Assessment Coordinator. Jon's position is new and will have a focus on helping us develop a new science assessment, implement our new accountability system, and improve our ability to support the assessment needs of Vermont schools. Both Gabe and John are currently finishing up their doctoral studies at UVM in the College of Education Leadership and Policy Studies program. My personal thanks to George Salembier, Chair of the UVM Department of Education, for referring these fine gentlemen to us.

Preparing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment

As the Smarter Balance Assessment testing window opens in little over a week, now is a great time to make sure everything is in place for a stress-free testing window.

Preparation Checklist:

- Have all roles and passwords been assigned?
- Have all test administrators completed the online testing certification?
- Has the test coordinator created a master testing schedule including the preparation of devices?
- Are parents / guardians informed about the testing times and dates?
- Did you know there is a sample letter on the Portal you can send to parents?
- Has all student data been uploaded into TIDE including the testing school and reporting school codes?
- Do all student devices have the secure browser installed and are the machines operating correctly?
- Have all student designated supports and accommodations been determined and coded in the student's TIDE files?
- Are there any students who need a paper and pencil form? Have you ordered them using the forms that can be downloaded from the portal?
- If you have students who need a health exemption, have you mailed or faxed [802-479-1829] the form to Jon Strazza at the AOE.

TTS – Checklist & Accommodation 3-5 Protocol – Reminder

There are still a few chances for DAs, TAs, and special education coordinators to view the new VT (state specific) guidance for assigning the Text-to-Speech on the ELA CAT (3-5) Accommodation. Use the icon in the left margin to access the link to register. Below are the dates that remain in the series. Also do not forget that, this year, a TTS Checklist must accompany all requests. Forms will be removed from the Special Populations section of the portal once testing has begun in preparation for the launch of the new secure file transfer link in TIDE. At that point all TTS requests will need to come from the District Test Administrators (DAs). Please contact Linda Moreno if you have any questions or need additional information.

Date	Time
Wednesday, March 8 th	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 9 th	3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Friday, March 10 th	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, March 13 th	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TTS
Accommodation
[Webinar](#)
[Registration](#)

VT - TTS
(3-5)
Accommodation
Qualification
[Checklist](#)



Digital Library: New Resources and Enhancements

New Connections

The Digital Library SNEs have developed two new Connections Playlists: [Grade 3 Number and Operations in Base Ten](#) and [Grade 4 Brief Writes](#). Digital Library Connections link student performance on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) to resources in the Digital Library. Each playlist is linked to a specific claim and the resources listed target skill levels for each achievement category listed on the score report. Playlists can be downloaded and are available via the VT-SBAC Portal or the Smarter Balanced website.



Practice Test Math Performance Tasks (coming soon)

New Math Performance Tasks will be uploaded soon to each grade level on the Math Practice tests. Practice tests are important because they give students the opportunity to experience the Smarter Balanced Assessment in a casual environment. [Answer keys](#) are also available, so educators can review answers with their students. Because anyone can use the Guest Login, Practice (and Training) tests are a good opportunity to inform and engage parents in the testing experience.

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/resources-and-documentation/>

Resources and Documentation

Download the documents below for additional support in using the [Practice Tests](#). Please note that all documents are in PDF format.

Manuals and User Guides	Manuals and User Guides Practice and Training Test User Guide – Provides an overview of the Practice and Training Test Site and information about accessing the Practice and Training Tests
Calculators	
Scoring Guides	
Annotated Anchors for Performance Tasks	
Performance Task Writing Rubrics	

Question of the Week

What is the difference between the Practice Test and the Training Test?

It is easy to confuse the two tests, and there are a few important differences.

Practice Test – These tests mirror the Smarter Balanced summative assessment. Each test contains about 30 items and a performance task. Practice tests are also grade specific and have a variety of question types.

Training Test – Training Tests are meant to introduce the student and teacher to the tools and supports available in the Test Delivery System (TDS). The training tests are organized in grade spans (3-5) (6-8) & (9-11). There are no performance tasks and students will need to have a Student ID and Session ID to access the practice tests. It is recommended that the practice tests are given no more than 6 weeks prior to the start of the summative assessment. Most schools administer the practice test either the week before or the week of the school's selected assessment window.

