

## 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](mailto:Linda.Moreno@vermont.gov)

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Questions?

Please contact:

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

Michael Hock (AOE) for  
Policies and Procedures  
[Michael.Hock@vermont.gov](mailto:Michael.Hock@vermont.gov)  
802-479-1288

Linda Moreno for  
Accessibility and  
Accommodations  
[Linda.Moreno@vermont.gov](mailto:Linda.Moreno@vermont.gov)  
802-479-1309

Gabriel McGann for  
Science & PE Assessments,  
Exemptions & Appeals  
[Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov](mailto:Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov)  
802-479-1444

Goma Mabika  
NAEP  
[goma.mabika@vermont.gov](mailto:goma.mabika@vermont.gov)  
802-479-1366



## Message from the Director: Closing the Assessment Window

You are probably aware that we are just two weeks before the Smarter Balanced assessment ends on June 15. You may not be aware that AIR has generously granted us an additional week to complete the **Vermont Science Assessment, now due to finish this Friday, June 8**. There are two important tasks that you need to complete before officially closing your assessment window for 2018:

1. Confirm that all your students have completed all parts of each assessment, and
2. sign and e-mail me the [District Test Administrator's Certification of Proper Test Administration](#) form.

Because SB and VTSA have multiple sections, and because students have an inconvenient habit of not showing up on days that you've scheduled test administration, it's easy to miss a few students who have not completed an assessment. Fortunately, one of the options available in TIDE, under the "Monitoring Test Progress" tab, allows you to generate several reports that will help you determine if all your students are finished. These reports include students who have completed testing, students who have started but have not completed an assessment, and students who are listed in your TIDE account who have not started testing. AIR has provided us with a handy guide on "[How to make sure all your students are present and accounted for.](#)" We encourage you to run this analysis as soon as possible while there is still time to catch up with the students you might have missed.

It's also essential that you complete and submit the "[DA Certification Form.](#)" It's located in the [Tools for School Leaders file](#) on the Vermont Assessment Portal near the bottom of the document list. This form will allow the AOE to certify your results knowing that the assessments were administered by trained individuals following the standard rules and procedures and without any breaches in security or student confidentiality. We hesitate to create a new form for you to fill out, but this is very important information for us to have on file and is a new federal requirement we need to follow.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and here's hoping that all your students earned high scores.

**Michael Hock**  
**State Assessment Director**

## Alt ELA/MA/Science Additional Office Hours

The Agency of Education will host the second virtual question and answer session on Friday June 8, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. This session will respond to any remaining questions related to the administration of the alternate assessment. There will be a short presentation with answers to frequently received questions followed by an opportunity for the participants to ask questions. The webinar can be accessed via GoTo Meeting or by calling in. [Registering](#) through GoTo Meeting will allow users to view the presentation and type in questions. Just calling in will allow users to hear the presentation without access to the chat function. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. The call in number is 1 (914) 614-3221 and the audio pin will be shown after joining the webinar.

### Reminder:

The last day to submit the alternate assessment portfolios is **Friday, June 15, 2018**. You can find the submission [link](#) on the Vermont Agency of Education Alternate Assessment [webpage](#). Please contact Chris Kane at [christopher.kane@vermont.gov](mailto:christopher.kane@vermont.gov) if you have any questions.

## VT Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA)

In order to complete the Vermont Physical Education Assessment press the process scores button on the FitnessGram data entry page. The data will be captured and a data extract will be sent to the VT AOE. For all other reporting, please submit your [Non-FitnessGram reporting Spreadsheet](#) to your **District Test Administrator (DA)**. This spreadsheet includes information for students who participated in the Brockport Fitness Test, and all students who partially participated or did not participate for any reason. DA's, please compile all of those spreadsheets from your schools into one document and submit to the AOE using [this secure link](#). Only one submission per district please. Independent schools are considered a district, so all independent schools will use the secure link to submit their school's data directly to [Gabriel McGann](#).



**Be on the lookout** for the [2018 Pilot VT PE Assessment Debrief](#). You can access this ahead of time, by clicking the hyperlinked title above. Otherwise, an email will be forthcoming to all assessment administrators/ PE teachers.

## Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) Window Extension

AIR has generously granted us an additional week to complete the **Vermont Science Assessment**, now due to finish this Friday, June 8.



**DA's: Please submit your [DA Certification of Proper Test Administration](#) to the AOE upon district test completion.**



**From the Inbox**

**From:** A 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

**Subject:** SBAC Question – Measuring Growth

Is it okay to compare the SBAC score from 3rd grade to 4th grade to show "growth"? I found a report of a student's scores that shows her scores from last year and shows her scores from this year. What I am not confident about is if I can say she "grew" from 2346 to 2384, a total of 38 points?

Thanks,

**Michael's Response:**

The quick and easy answer to your question is, "yes, you can say that student grew." However, for other students with score increases you need a bit more information to determine how many points constitutes growth. If a student's score goes up about 33 points, which would be the equivalent of one year's growth. If the score went up more than 33 points, then the *student grew AND made progress*. In this case, we're defining progress in terms of the student's performance relative to the proficient cut point. If a student was at or near the proficient cut point last year and this year had a score increase of 33 points, the student would still be rated as proficient. If the student grew more than 33 points, then the student demonstrated a higher level of proficiency than the previous year. As far as your student is concerned, a 38-point increase is something to celebrate. If you are interested, you can find the [cut score table](#) on the Assessment Portal.

**Score Embargo: Why have an embargo?**

**Embargo ends June 15, 2018**

Even though many Vermont schools finished testing as far back as March, we have asked that all schools, no matter when they completed testing, to delay public reporting until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Although schools could begin using both student and group results for internal purposes as soon as student results began appearing in the school's Online Reporting System files, we have imposed an Embargo on public reporting until after the close of the assessment window to remove any perceived incentives for testing early. The assessment team is pleased to report that we have not heard of any violations of the embargo, and we are very grateful.

VT 2018 SBAC Assessment Tally: 6/5/2018 (Completed)									
Grade	# of students	ELA CAT	MA CAT	ELA PT	MA PT	Total #	% Completed	96%	
9	43148	6275	5906	5923	5882	5908	23619		0.940996016
8		6097	5886	5883	5974	5881	23624		0.968673118
7		6214	6005	5990	5958	6005	23958		0.963871902
6		6086	5894	5884	5879	5878	23535		0.966767992
5		6314	6113	6150	6116	6127	24506		0.970304086
4		6265	6075	6106	6062	6110	24353		0.971787709
3		5897	5724	5746	5703	5742	22915	0.971468543	