

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Team



### Message from the Director: Assessment System Updates for 2017-2018

In part because of new requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Agency is planning the following changes to the state assessment system that will be implemented over the course of the 2017-2018 school year. Below is a list of the changes you can expect to see:

1. High School Smarter Balanced Assessment will be administered in grade 9 rather than grade 11- The Agency is currently working with our assessment contractor to develop a new high school test that will focus on skills and knowledge that represents academic proficiency at the end of grade 9. The test will use a hybrid set of test items taken from grade 11, grade 8, and a set of previously unused items that were field-tested with grade 9 students. This change will provide seven continuous years of results for each student that will be useful for measuring growth. This will also free up grade 11 students to take one of several career and college ready assessments (e.g. SAT, ACT, ASVAB), another new component in the [State Accountability Plan](#). For additional information on Smarter Balance and high school assessments please contact [Michael Hock](#).
2. New Science Test Field Test in grades 5, 8 and 11 – Vermont has once again joined forces with Rhode Island to develop a new science test that will be fully aligned with the [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#). Work on the new test will begin this summer, leading up to a statewide field test that is scheduled for the second through fourth weeks of May 2018, and full implementation in May 2019. The administration will use a computer delivery system that is very similar to the Smarter Balanced system the state is currently using for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The current plan calls for two, one-hour test sessions that will cover the science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts that are the foundation of the NGSS. For additional information on the new science test, please contact [Jon Strazza](#).
3. New Alternate Assessments – Vermont has formally severed ties with the Dynamic Learning Maps consortium (DLM) and is currently gathering information that will help the Agency design or select a new set of alternate assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. The current plan is to start work on the new assessment in the fall, in time to field test in the spring of 2018. Please be advised that DLM will keep its educator portal open for Vermont District and Test Coordinators until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Student Score Reports will be available in late August. For additional information, please contact [Christopher Kane](#) or [Linda Moreno](#).

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

**Michael Hock, State Assessment Director**

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

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### Smarter Balanced (TIDE/ORS) Key Dates

Event	Date(s)
Secure Browser Release Date	August 14, 2017
TIDE Downtime	September 5, 2017 – September 18 2017
TIDE Go-Live	September 19, 2017
TA Certification Course Go-Live	September 19, 2017
ORS Downtime	September 18, 2017 – September 25, 2017
ORS Go-Live (for Interim Assessments)	September 26, 2017
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Test Window (ICA and IAB)	September 26, 2017 – June 15, 2018
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Test Window	March 13, 2018 – June 1, 2018
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Make-Up Test Window	June 4, 2018 – June 15, 2018

### ORS / AIR Ways Enhancements

AIR Ways enhancements will be released in two batches. The first batch will only include student longitudinal data. The second batch will be released in late fall / early winter.

#### BATCH 1:

##### Longitudinal Student Data

Teachers will now be able to view reports from previous years and related tests in the current year. Teachers will be able to see both a test view by student and a test view by roster.

#### BATCH 2:

##### Filtering and Navigational Changes

Teachers now have more ways to filter information. Teachers will now be able to navigate both across a single student's response to multiple items and across multiple student responses to a single item.

##### Create and Attach Resources

Teachers will be able to create and attach specific resources to tests. In other words, you will be able to provide your field with instructional material targeting a specific test.

##### Vocabulary

Changed the word "class" to "roster" in all cases.

Changed "condition code" to "test status" in cases of an invalidation, etc.

##### Reports

Districts will be able to do an "all schools" report to get a district wide snapshot

## Special Populations: New Accessibility Tools/ Accommodations

Below is a list of new accessibility features for the 2017-18 school year. Please reference the Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility & Accommodations Guide (UAAG)\* for more information on use and assignment.

### Universal Tools -embedded

Line Reader

Thesaurus – ELA Performance Tasks (Full Write)

### Designated Support –embedded & non-embedded

Mouse Pointer – size and color

Non-embedded Amplification

### Accommodation – embedded and non-embedded

Braille Transcript for ELA listening passages

Paper / Pencil Braille Assessment

Word Prediction – including ELA PT (full write)\*

Please note that with any external software, permissive mode must be enabled. Avoid cloud-based applications because they will not work with the secure browser.

\*Updated annually in August

## Inbox

**From:** School Information Technology Discussion [<mailto:SCHOOL-IT@list.uvm.edu>]

**On Behalf Of** A District IT Coordinator

**To:** [SCHOOL-IT@LIST.UVM.EDU](mailto:SCHOOL-IT@LIST.UVM.EDU)

**Subject:** SBAC for SY 17-18



Good afternoon!

Was wondering if the Secure SBAC Browsers that are currently listed on the AOE portal <http://vt.portal.airast.org/secure-browsers/> should be considered okay to install for the 2017-2018 image or not - Mac 10.12.5 OS. Seems like the Secure Browser versions have been updated on a more frequent basis as of late. Should I wait or go for it?

Thoughts?

**Response:** from AIR

Probably best to wait; the updated Secure Browsers are currently scheduled to be released on 8/14/17. They'll be placed on the portal and we'll make an announcement when that happens.

Let me know if you need anything else on this.

## Digital Library Updates

On Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> enhancement to the [Digital Library](#) went live. This update featured a new Search Interface, new assessment targets, and a reorganization of notifications. In September 2017, the 5<sup>th</sup> enhancement will be released. In this release, users will be able to merge their Digital Library Accounts. This is important in Vermont because, as school systems merge and emails change, educators and their SNEs will not need to create new accounts. Other improvements you may notice are a local time-zone (instead of an Eastern time zone default) and a revised search engine.

### Digital Library & Vermont Portal Resources

New [Digital Library Help Desk Manual](#)! For those of you who have used and/or managed Digital Library membership, you may have hit snags and error messages. In the past, you would contact me (Linda Moreno) and I would have to send an email to Smarter Balanced and hope for a timely response. Now, with the new Help Desk Manual, educators and coordinators can access all the information a hypothetical Digital Library Help Desk (we don't have one) would have. Coming soon, there will be a Digital Library User Guide and accompanying video.

## Interim Assessments

With the linking of the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and the Digital Library, the second and third components are beginning to compliment each other nicely. Just after the first administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment, work began linking assessment targets to lessons in the Digital Library. Last year, we began to see some of this work come to fruition via the [Digital Library Connections](#) and [Playlists](#) documents. In the future, we are hoping that if a teacher gives an interim, they will be linked to remedial or accelerated lessons.

The [Interim blueprints](#) have now been updated for the 2017-18 school year. This package includes seven new mathematics IABs and modifications to some ELA/Literacy IABs. This brings the interim totals to [61 for ELA](#) and [46 for math](#). Please take a few minutes to become acquainted with these resources. Below is a chart comparing the IABs to the Interim Comprehensive Assessments. (ICAs).

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)	Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)
Measure the same content as the summative assessment and assess the same standards.	Focus on smaller sets of targets and therefore are more flexible to better support instruction
Available as fixed form tests and may also be available as adaptive tests when item counts are adequate.	Available as fixed form tests and may also be available as adaptive tests, as appropriate based on content and when item counts are adequate.
Include the same item types and formats, including performance tasks, as the summative assessments	Include the same item types and formats, including performance tasks, as the summative assessments.
Yield overall scale scores (on the same vertical scale), overall performance level designations, and claim-level information.	Yield overall information for each block.
Claim-level information results reported in the Smarter Balanced reporting system as "Below Standard," "At/Near Standard," and "Above Standard."	Results will be reported in the Smarter Balanced reporting system as "Below Standard," "At/Near Standard," and "Above Standard."