



# Special Summer Edition

**Tentative Schedule: Assessment Results & Related Activities**

**8/4:** Smarter Balanced Online Reporting System (ORS) is now available to schools for planning and individual student reporting

**8/17:** On or near August 17th—Release Smarter Balanced (SB) results for schools, districts, and state.

**Mid-September:** Accountability Reporting (no new actions or decisions)

**2015/16 year** School Effectiveness Coordinators will be reaching out to leadership teams and scheduling meetings to discuss supporting continuous improvement. NO mandatory requirements to write new plans.

August 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**From the Test Director**

*I'm very pleased to announce the opening of the Smarter Balanced Online Reporting System (ORS) that will provide school leaders and educators with a variety of options for viewing and analyzing student results and creating reports that can be shared with teachers, parents, school boards and the community. Please keep in mind that opening the ORS is the first step in a staggered approach to release of results. As can be seen from the schedule above, opening the ORS will be followed by release of statewide results later in August, accountability reporting in September and a series of regional workshops on Analysis and Reporting in October. As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me .*

**Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, michael.hock@vermont.gov / 802-479-1288**

**Documents and Resources to Support Public Release**

Following is an annotated list of documents and resources that schools can use as part of the public release of Smarter Balanced test scores:

**“Why We Test”**

This document was prepared after several principals and superintendents requested information that could be shared with parents and community members that would underscore the importance of statewide assessment and the purposes it can serve.

**“How is SBAC Different than NECAP?”**

This one-page document provides a “side-by-side” comparison of the two statewide assessments. It may help parents and community members gain a better understanding of the tool that provided the results.

**Online Reporting System Instructions and Resources**

The Online Reporting System (ORS) is the main source of Smarter Balanced results, including both student level data and parent reports, as well as a variety of options for creating school and district level reports. Several resources are available to help school leaders and staff learn how to navigate the ORS, including the following:

The **“User Guide”** provides detailed information on the various resources and functions included in the ORS.

The **“Online Reporting System Training Module”** provides users with an overview of the resources that are available in the ORS and how to access them. It can be downloaded in a narrated or un-narrated version.

Both are available [here](#).

**Individual Student Report Guide**

This resource is an annotated screen shot of the individual student report that can be delivered to parents along with the Individual Student Report.

VT—Smarter Balanced Assessment Newsletter

### Guidelines and Cautions for Use of the Online Reporting System (ORS)

The Agency is providing school leaders and educators access to the ORS on August 4th so that they will have the information available to help plan for the new school year. It will also be possible to begin the process of downloading and delivering reports to parents. However, the opening of the ORS is just the first step in release of the Smarter Balanced results and therefore comes with a few important guidelines and cautions:

- ◆ The Agency will no longer be providing paper copies of the parent report. Those reports can be downloaded and/or printed directly from the ORS. Printing can be done in batches or individually. Download and printing instructions are included in the [ORS Users Guide](#).
- ◆ Both State and Federal rules require schools to forward student results reports to parents. However, how and when those reports are provided to parents are at the discretion of the local school system.
- ◆ The agency recommends that schools should forego production of school or district level reports until the Agency releases statewide results later in August. There are two reasons for this caution:
  - ⇒ The Agency is currently finalizing clean-up of the Spring 2015 Student Census and will update the student demographic information in the ORS as soon as it is available. The demographic data that is currently available in the ORS is from the Fall census and therefore may be out of date. This could compromise any analysis based on student groups such as special education students or English Language Learners.
  - ⇒ During review of the ORS it was discovered that participation data may not be accurate for some schools, particularly high schools, who may have entered students in the Test Information Delivery System who were from grades other than the grades designated for summative assessments (e.g., 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders were entered so they could use the Interim assessments). Where this is the case, participation rates generated from the ORS will be artificially low because students who were not expected to take the summative test will be included in the participation calculations. Unfortunately, the problem was not identified in time to correct it in the ORS. However, the Agency will provide correct participation rates as part of its public release.

#### Fall Regional Trainings

Monday, 10/19 (PM) – Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

Tuesday, 10/20 (PM) – Mt. Snow , Dover

Wednesday, 10/20 (AM) – Killington Grand, Killington

Thursday, 10/21 (AM) – Colchester Hampton Inn, Colchester

#### 2015-16 Smarter Balanced Testing Window & Important Dates

**Go Live Dates:** 8/28-Secure Browser      10/6—TIDE      10/9—Interims\* / AVA / THSS      10/14— ORS

**Summative Window:** Tuesday, 3/15 to Friday, 5/27; *Make-up days: Tuesday, May 31—EOY*

*\* Interims will run through the summer and close on August 29, 2016*

**For more information or questions please contact Linda Moreno at 802-479-1309 or [linda.moreno@vermont.gov](mailto:linda.moreno@vermont.gov)**

***Please note Agency of Education emails have changed. Please update your current contact lists.***

