

**News from the
Agency of Education
Assessment Team**



Registration Update:

**Smarter Balanced
Regional Test
Interpretation Workshops**

Montpelier: Full
(10/19 1-4)

Mt. Snow: [Register](#)
(10/20 1-4)

Killington: [Register](#)
(10/21 8:30-11:30)

Colchester: Full
(10/22 8:30-11:30)



From the Test Director

Several school leaders asked us for an alternative to the SBAC Parent Report Guide that was prepared by our assessment contractor – something that would be a bit less technical and a bit more “parent friendly.” I’m pleased to announce that we have completed this project. The new Parent Guide (Individual Student Report Guide – Version 2) can be downloaded [here](#). Thanks to all of you who provided ideas and feedback on how to improve the report, particularly the Chittenden County Curriculum Coordinators group.

At a recent Smarter Balanced meeting I saw an impressive video on SBAC and the Common Core State Standards that might be of interest to folks here in Vermont. The Riverside Unified School District in California produced the informational presentation for use with parents, students and community members. Although it occasionally references the Golden State, the information is relevant to all Smarter Balanced states, and with a small disclaimer there should be no reason why you can’t use this with Vermont audiences. You can find the video by using this link: [Smarter Balanced Assessment \(SBAC\) Test Results - Parent Video - Riverside Unified School District](#).

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director

TIDE is Open and Ready for Data Entry:

The Test Information Delivery Engine (TIDE) is now open on the Vermont Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal (<http://vt.portal.airast.org/>) and ready for student data entry. I want to alert you to a change in the process for preparing TIDE, and the reasons behind the change. As you may recall, last year the AOE pre-loaded student information into TIDE from your fall census submissions and then asked you make edits for new enrolls and/or students who left your district since the census data was gathered. You might also recall that we were unable to make use of our contractor’s ability to provide quick turn-around of student results, again because the assessment schedule was out of sync with the census. Finally, the interim assessments are now available for use in your classroom, but the TIDE files must be populated first. To address these issues it will be necessary for districts to enter their own student data into TIDE. After you select TIDE on the Portal and enter your password, select “Student Information” and follow the on-screen instructions. Data can be added one student at a time, or you can download a file format and build the file from your district’s data system using either excel or a csv format. Please contact the Vermont Helpdesk if you need help understanding the process ((844) 218-1184/vthelpdesk@air.org).

While you’re entering data into TIDE, you may also want to create student rosters for classroom teachers, which is done by selecting the “roster” tab in TIDE. This will make it possible for classroom teachers to pull up results for their students in the Online Reporting System, and can also make data verification easier and more efficient. Rosters can be created at any time, but you may want to do it now while you are building the files.



District Test Administrators & Digital Library Contacts

Please email your current District Test Coordinators and Digital Library Contacts to Linda Moreno at linda.moreno@vermont.gov. There have been many changes both in staff and school consolidations. The Agency would like to post a current list for teachers and principals to access.

Digital Library Spotlight

Opportunity to Learn for All Students: Enhancing Access to What should be Taught and Will be Tested

Date: October 27, 2015

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm Pacific

Presenter: Alexander Kurz, PhD

Next in the Digital Library series of online discussions, Dr. Alexander Kurz will examine the concept of opportunity to learn (OTL) and how OTL data can be used to inform instruction. Recent advancements using teacher logs have allowed educators to collect OTL data across the school year in ways that can be formative to classroom instruction. Dr. Kurz will discuss the importance of OTL data based on federal mandates and fairness in testing and provide suggestions for evidence-based decision-making in the formative assessment process. He will give examples to illustrate the use of evidence from OTL and the formative assessment process using My Instructional Learning Opportunities Guidance System (MyiLOGS) and the Smarter Interim Assessment Blocks. Dr. Kurz has published over a dozen articles and chapters on opportunity-to-learn (OTL), alignment, test accessibility, and testing accommodations. He has co-edited the Handbook of Accessible Achievement Tests, and his work has appeared in books such as the Handbook of Educational Psychology and journals such as Exceptional Children, Applied Measurement in Education, and the Journal of Special Education.

Register

The first session in this series on Universal Design (UDL) was hosted by Steve Elliot and can be found here: <https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/maximizing-access-instruction-and-testing-students-disabilities-improve-achievement>.

Online Test Administration Teacher Certification

The online Teacher Certification course is now available. All individuals who will be administering the test must recertify in order to open a test session. The training is also recommended for all staff that will be involved with testing. This is necessary because a number of changes have been made to the testing platform. Additionally, the federal government requires states to provide evidence that student assessments are administered by qualified staff.

Test Administration Certification

For more information or questions, please contact:

Linda Moreno
Assessment Coordinator
for Special Populations
802-479-1309

Linda.moreno@vermont.gov