

Smarter Balanced Assessment Team

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

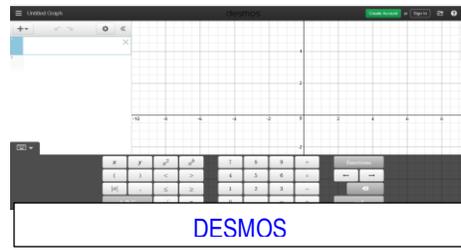
Linda Moreno
Assessment Coordinator for Special Populations
802-479-1309
Linda.moreno@vermont.gov

Questions?
Please contact:
Help Desk (AIR) for Test Administration & Test Delivery Technologies
vthelpdesk@air.org
844-218-1184

Michael Hock (AOE) for Policies and Procedures
Michael.hock@vermont.gov
802-479-1288

Linda Moreno
Accessibility and Accommodations
Linda.moreno@vermont.gov
802-479-1309

Jon Strazza for Health Exemptions & Appeals
jon.strazza@vermont.gov
802-479-1444



From the Test Director:

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the Smarter Balanced Assessment window. Just a reminder that all schools should be done testing whole classes by today, May 26th. A make-up window from May 29th through June 16 has been reserved for individual students who have missed all or some of the Smarter Balanced test. TIDE will close on June 16th. Before you close your assessment window, we strongly encourage you to print out a report from TIDE that can be used to determine which of your students have and have not completed testing. It is surprisingly easy to forget about a student who for one reason or another didn't complete a testing session or forgot to hit submit or left a session pause. You have the better part of two weeks to track those students down and schedule a make-up session. We've added directions for generating a test completion report [here](#). Speaking of tests left on pause, you actually don't need to do anything about them unless the test was not completed. When the assessment window closes on June 16th those tests will be automatically submitted for scoring.

Smarter Balanced has a New Home

If you're wondering about the big yellow mollusk that is gracing the top of this edition of the newsletter, it's not just because slugs are a sign of spring in Vermont. That is actually Sammy the Banana Slug, venerated team mascot at the University of California Santa Cruz. Sammy appears in our newsletter to announce that the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has relocated its main office from UCLA to UCSC. We do not anticipate any issues or changes in service during this transition, although you may spot your test director wearing a new Sam the Slug shirt.



VT 2017 SBAC Assessment Tally: 5/22/2017 (Completed)								
Grade	# of students	ELA CAT	MA CAT	ELA PT	MA PT	Total #	% Completed	
11	43846	6921	5505	5556	5461	5537	22059	0.796814044
8		6064	5266	5174	5129	5113	20682	0.852655013
7		6107	5397	5291	5264	5233	21185	0.867242509
6		6233	5613	5654	5500	5585	22352	0.89651853
5		6043	5257	5289	5044	5173	20763	0.858969055
4		6241	5521	5453	5378	5334	21686	0.868690915
3		6237	5397	5366	5055	5248	21066	0.844396344

Desmos Calculator

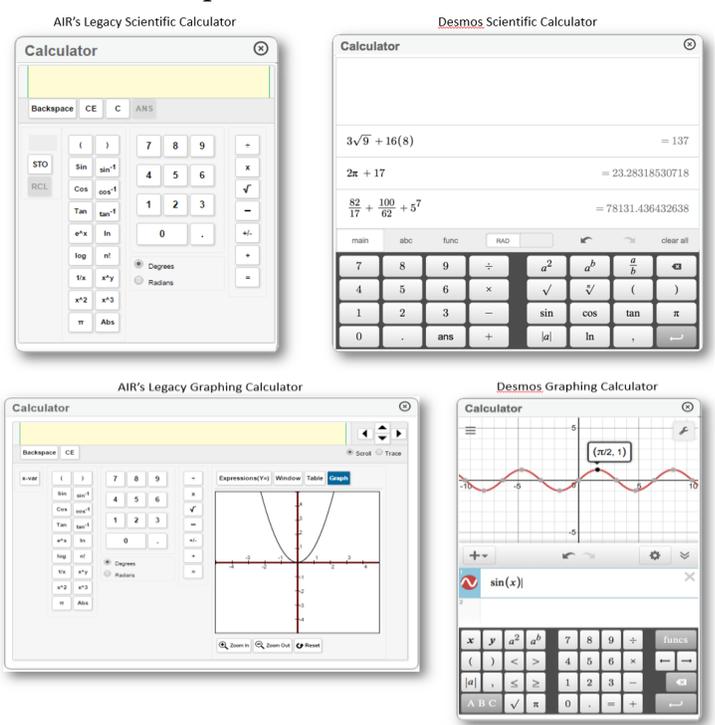
Smarter Balanced has entered into a partnership with Desmos resulting in the calculator’s availability on the summative and interim assessments for all states in the consortium beginning in the 2017-18 testing year. This unprecedented move was featured on [CNN](#) and other media outlets. This merger creates the opportunity for students to have access to the same scientific calculator featured on their state tests and all year without having to pay for an expensive hand held device. The Desmos calculator will be free to download from their website for students (13+ yrs via a secure registration.) Even though the calculator available for testing will be limited in functions (for testing purposes), the online version is fully loaded making this tool both functional and economical.

Desmos & Accessibility

Even more promising are the Desmos calculator’s accessibility features. The Desmos calculator is (WCAG) 2.0 AA compliant. Starting in the 2017-18 school year, the Desmos calculator will have built in [accessibility features](#) for the blind / visually impaired. Desmos is currently working on compatibility with the refreshable braille displays. This will enable a student to enter the math on the refreshable braille display in the math code the student is using, either UEB or Nemeth. Additionally, Desmos introduced sound cues to indicate the direction and coordinates/points on a slope.

Old vs. New

Below is a comparison between the older version calculator and the Desmos.



**Question of the Week*****Can I share a student's score with his/her parents?***

As we approach the end of the year and the testing session, many schools are going to begin to see individual student results in the Online Reporting System (ORS). These scores are for school use only. Like last year, there will be an embargo placed on releasing score reports until all testing in the state is complete (June 9th). Furthermore, public reporting of scores should be labelled as “preliminary” until after the state reconciles the assessment results with the spring census and releases the results in late August. Please note that the Agency’s reconciliation process will not likely change local school and district results, but we may see some changes in state comparison data. Therefore, score release and the associated embargo will be implemented in the following stages:

1. Individual student results may be used for local purposes, but release of student reports is under embargo because they include state data.
2. When all students or district have completed testing, it is permissible to create aggregate reports for internal use, but out of respect to other schools and districts that are not finished please do not report results to the public.
3. On or after June 16 when the testing window closes, public reporting is permitted with the caveat that results should be labelled “preliminary.” Individual Student Reports (ISRs) may also be released at this time or later at the school’s discretion.
4. On or after August 25 (to be determined) when the Agency releases results, the preliminary label can be removed from local reports.

Directions for [printing ISRs](#) can be found under the District Administrator card in the [“Tools and Documents for School Leaders”](#) folder.