

Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program

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Smarter Balanced Assessment Team

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VT AOE Weekly Field Memo
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From the Test Director: A Few Brief Updates

Release of Smarter Balanced Results— You may recall that it was necessary to delay release of the spring 2018 results so that we could re-score the grade 8 math test. The American Institutes for Research has completed the re-score and has posted the corrected results in the Online Reporting System. The reporting embargo is now lifted; you should feel free to report to your parents, board and community. If you have already sent the Individual Student Reports to parents, you may want to consider sending a new math report to all grade 8 students. Students who were administered the problem item will very likely see improved math scores, but it is also likely the school, district and state level scores will increase for all students. The good news is that grade eight math scores will improve at every level and for all student groups.

The Saga of District Consolidation and AIR Passwords

One result of district consolidation, unanticipated at least by me, is that many of you can no longer access the secure sections of the Assessment Portal. This problem arises if you have a new e-mail address and/or your new district has a new name and institution code, which results in the automated security not recognizing you as an approved user. Unfortunately, this may mean that ALL the users in your district will need to be reentered into the system. The good news is that this can be fixed quickly and easily. Here's the cascade process we recommend:

1. The district superintendent contacts me to provide the name and e-mail of the designated District Test Administrator (DA). For security reasons, the designation must come from the Superintendent, or in the case of independent schools, the principal or headmaster. As soon as I get this notice, I'll enter the DA into the system and the DA will receive a temporary password by e-mail.
2. The DA goes into TIDE, selects "Users/Add Users" and enters the name of a School Coordinator (SC), typically the principal or guidance counselor, for each building. In larger districts, the DA may want to enter information for one or more District Coordinators (DC) who can also assign passwords and use other TIDE functions.
3. The SC can then provision appropriate school staff (create users). They have two choices: Teachers (TE) who will have access to the test delivery system and student level information for their classes in the Online Reporting System, or Test Administrator (TA) who can access the test delivery system but CAN NOT access student level information in the ORS.

We're sorry for the inconvenience. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director

Regional Trainings

It is time for the annual State Assessment Regional Trainings, otherwise known as the Vermont training “Road Trip.” Our training this year will cover upgrades to the Smarter Balanced assessment as well as our new Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) field tested last year and the Vermont general and alternate Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA/alt-VTPEA). New will be an overview of the Vermont Climate Survey. Every district may send up to three designees. We would like one of the designees to be the District Test Administrator (DA). The registration link was sent out via the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP) [portal](#) a few weeks ago. You may also [register](#) by clicking the training grid below.

Training Location	Training Date	Training Time
Montpelier	Tuesday, October 23, 2018	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Killington	Wednesday, October 24, 2018	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Mt. Snow	Thursday, October 25, 2018	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Burlington	Friday, October 26, 2018	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Tide/TDS/AIR Ways Enhancement Webinar

American Institutes for Research (AIR) will host a live webinar about the testing systems on Thursday, October 11th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The advantage of attending the live session is the ability to ask questions and interact with our project management team from AIR. As usual, a recorded version will be posted to the portal for those folks who are unable to attend the live session. [Registration](#) for this training is now open, and can be accessed via the hyperlink above or by visiting the [VTCAP Portal](#) under Recent Announcements.

AOE Field Workshops/Webinars Interims & Digital Library

Trainings are available to districts who may want to train staff on how to use the Interims, Digital Library Connections Playlists, and Air Ways reporting system. If your district would like to offer a workshop for your school(s), please contact [Sarah Birgé](#) to schedule a training or to gather more information.

VTPEA Trainings in October & November

Shape VT: All PE teachers

Refresher course October 18th and 19th. (Alternate on 10/18 only)

Annual Trainer Certification: PE teacher leaders

November 15th at Castleton State University

November 16th at Norwich University.

Each district has been asked to submit the names of two PE teacher leaders and one representative for Special Populations to be invited to Trainer Certification trainings. If this has not been done, DA’s or Superintendents are able to [submit names using this link](#).

Digital Library / Interims / SNEs

New Digital Library Storefront

The Digital Library has a new “storefront” that quickly and easily lays out the range of resources and supports available. You can learn more about the specifics from this [overview flyer](#). Check out a sampling of what the Digital Library has to offer:

- English Language Arts/Literacy
[Tone and Mood: A Mini-lesson](#) (High School)
- Mathematics
[Fractions on a Number Line: The Race is On!](#) (Grade 3)
- Professional Development
[Know, Understand, Do: A Routine to Clarify Learning and Check Understanding](#)

State Network Educator (SNE): Smarter Balanced Digital Library Interim Webinar

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library team will be hosting two webinars this fall for SNEs. Registration is open to current SNEs.

Wednesday, 10/24th at 6:30 p.m.: *Building Bridges One Block at a Time: How to Use Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) to Support Learning in Your Classroom*

Wednesday, 11/11th at 6:30 p.m.: *Student Involvement in Interpreting Evidence: Using the Formative Assessment Process to Support Learning in Your Classroom*

Once vetted, the webinars will be recorded and archived in the [SNE Webinars & Screencasts](#) Forum in the Digital Library, and they will be available on the Smarter Balanced YouTube Channel. A registration link will be emailed directly to SNEs by Friday, 10/5. Anyone interested in becoming a SNE should complete an [Educator Recruitment Application](#) and send it to [Linda Moreno](#) for review. SNEs are trained in the formative assessment process and are a valuable resource for both Smarter Balanced and the schools

FYI: Winter 2019 SNE Workshop will be in Portland, Oregon. (Dates TBD)

Air Ways (live 10/2)

Air Ways reporting system allows educators and district level administrators to look at student performance on the interim assessments. Teachers are able to make decisions about instructional steps for the entire class or for individual students who need advanced content or remediation. You can access Air Ways through the [VT Comprehensive Assessment Portal](#).

Performance by Roster | Performance by Student Filters Print

Score, Performance and Points Earned on **IAB - Math Grade 8 - The Number System** (Unassigned) of All Rosters, by Student and Reporting Category: Demo School 3, 2017-2018
 Filtered by Test Reasons: All Test Reasons Assessment Target: 1|S|TS04|A-3

Student	Student ID	Total	5 Items on which Students Performed the Best					5 Items on which Students Performed the Worst				
		Performance	Item Numbers and Points Earned					Item Numbers and Points Earned				
Max Points		Above Standard	1	2	8	10	11	6	7	9	12	13
Everyone		100%	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lastname, Firstname	9999990503	At/Near Standard	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Rows per page: 10 1 Items: 1 of 1

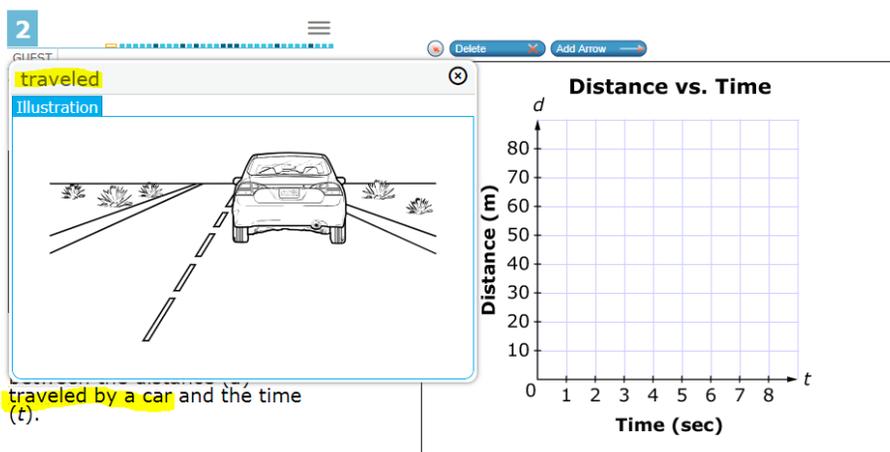
Special Populations: New Accessibility Features

Spanish Toggle / Student Volunteers

New on the 2019 VTSA is the Spanish Toggle. Traditionally, when a student was given a test in their native language, it was delivered in two formats: Spanish only or stacked English/Spanish with one appearing at the top of the page and the other appearing below (often running into another page). With the toggle capability, the student will be able to view the assessment in either Spanish or English with the ability to switch languages. The AOE would like to observe how students interact with the toggle support. We hope that students who are literate in both languages, but learning content vocabulary in English only may find Spanish toggle helpful. Please contact [Linda Moreno](#) if you are interested and willing to allow your Spanish literate student to demo the new toggle feature.

Illustration Glossaries

Illustration glossaries are a new Designated Support being provided in 2019 on the Math Practice Test. These glossaries assist students with term recognition if he or she is not literate in either their first language (L1) or English. It may also help special education students who struggle with reading comprehension. In 2020, the illustration glossaries will be on both the Smarter Balanced and Interim Assessments.



Question of the Week?

When and where will we find our VTSA results?

The spring-2018 science results will not be included in the Online Reporting System (ORS) this year. Instead, they will be included on the new accountability dashboard that is due to launch in November. Actually, because of the unique circumstance this year, we don't actually have the results yet. Sorry. Next year everything will be on the ORS soon after the test window closes.