

Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program

Vol. 2, Issue 4 February 11, 2019: Alternate Assessment



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

VT AOE Weekly Field Memo
Updates on *all* AOE Events

[Subscribe](#)

State Assessment
Information:
[VTCAP Portal](#)

Michael Hock (AOE) for
Policies and Procedures

Michael.Hock@vermont.gov

802-479-1288

Linda Moreno for
Accessibility and
Accommodations

Linda.Moreno@vermont.gov

802-479-1309

Gabriel McGann for
Science and PE Assessments,
Exemptions and Appeals

Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov

802-479-1444

Goma Mabika
NAEP

Goma.Mabika@vermont.gov

802-479-1366

Sarah Birgé
School Climate Survey
Digital Library/Interims

Sarah.Birge@vermont.gov

802-479-1426



From the Test Director: Alternate Assessment

We are pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of awarding a contract for a new alternate assessment. The new alternate assessment will cover English Language Arts, Math, and NGSS Science. It will be delivered in the same grades, per federal regulation, as the general Smarter Balanced and Vermont Science assessments. Although Vermont Procurement Rules prevent us from naming our new vendor until the contract is signed, we can tell you now that the assessment window will be from April 16 through May 31, and that we will be providing regional trainings in four locations around the state the first week of April. Like Vermont's other assessments, the new alternate will use a computer test delivery system and will include an array of embedded accommodations and accessibility features. Please keep all students, regardless of assessment, in TIDE until further notice.

Regional Training Dates: Save the Date

Tuesday, April 2: Mt. Snow (afternoon)

Wednesday, April 3: Killington (morning)

Thursday, April 4: Montpelier (morning)

Friday, April 5: Burlington (morning)

Registration Link and exact times will be forthcoming.

**Michael Hock,
State Assessment Director**

Vermont Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA)

Individual Fitness Assessment (IFA) Training

Webinars on the IFA will be taking place in late February and run through March. Please click below to register.

[IFA Training Registration](#)

Feel free to contact Linda Moreno at linda.moreno@vermont.gov with any questions.

VTPEA Update

There has been a new VTPEA [Update](#) released on January 31, 2019. The update includes important links for training materials, certification tests, and reporting processes for the 2019 VTPEA.

National Assessment of Educational Programs (NAEP)

As you know, the NAEP assessment is underway across the nation. All NAEP eligible students in grades 4 & 8 in public schools will take the assessment between January 28 and March 8 in Mathematics and Reading. If you are a NAEP school coordinator, and you have not done this, please complete all the pre-assessment activities listed in MyNAEP before students are assessed in your school. Per NAEP, an activity is complete when there is a green check mark next to it. Each activity comes with a tutorial. I recommend that you watch the tutorials first. If you need help completing these tasks, please reach out to Goma Mabika at goma.mabika@vermont.gov, or call him at 802-479-1366. You can also contact your NAEP representative or the NAEP Help Desk at 800 283 6237. Thank you for your hard work.

Smarter Balanced**Grade 6-9 Text-to-Speech Request: Broken Link**

During the week of February 4, the link to the grade 6-9 TTS Request was disabled. To our knowledge, if the field was accessing the form through the December Newsletter, you were still able to request the accommodation. However, as of February 8, 2018, the AOE was not able to access the requests. We are now able to access these forms, and to the best of our knowledge, there was no lost data. If you are not seeing a requested accommodation by Monday, February 18, please contact Linda Moreno at linda.moreno@vermont.gov. Please do not send personally identifiable information about students. A simple message with your name, the school and the dates you submitted the request will suffice.

Smarter Balanced Interims: Auto Scoring Pilot

Vermont is participating in a pilot test to auto-score short response (1- and 2-point items) on the Smarter Balanced Interim tests. When your students take the Smarter Balanced Interims, some of the ELA and math items will be auto-scored and you will be able to review, and change if necessary, the scoring of those items in AIR Ways Reporting using the same procedures you currently use to review auto-scoring of responses to full writes on the ELA Performance tasks. For more information about auto-scoring of the Smarter Balanced Interims, please see the posted FAQs.

Digital Library SNE Workshop: Thank you

This week, Vermont Educators will be attending the Digital Library Winter Workshop in Portland, Oregon. This is important work and quality professional development. The Assessment team at the AOE would like to thank the school principals and district superintendents for allowing their instructional coaches, educators, curriculum directors, special educators, and others to attend these workshops.

Digital Library / Interim Trainings

As of February 7, over a dozen districts around the state have participated in the AOE Digital Library and Interim Assessments training. Prior to the training, 78% of participants said that they “never” used the Digital Library as a resource. Afterwards, 83% said that they planned to use the Digital Library as a resource. Additionally, 49% of participants said that they “never” used the Interim Assessments. Afterwards, 76% said that they planned to incorporate the use of interim assessments in their classroom instruction. We can tailor trainings for each district’s context. If you are interested in scheduling a training, contact Sarah Birgé at sarah.birge@vermont.gov .



Director’s Inbox

From: A District Test Administrator

Subject: Home School Students: Just making sure these things haven't changed...

Hi Michael!

Just got the first phone call about home school students...are these notes that I took from conversing with Glenn Bailey or you in prior testing years still true?

They are:

1. Home Schooled Students: The Agency’s position on home-schooled students is the same as it’s always been – it’s a courtesy but not a requirement. It is not necessary to assess home-schooled students, even if they come into school part of the day. Only fully enrolled students need to be assessed. Parents may make a request to their local public school to have their home-schooled student included in assessment. The student will be assessed according to the schedule the school has established for the public school students. You do not need to inform the parents that this option is available to them, but if you want, you certainly could expand this courtesy by notifying them that testing is available upon request. You will need to notify the parents when the reports are available because they will be posted on the ORS files for the school where the testing occurred.

2. Accountability: Why have your students take the tests? Your family would receive a report of how well your child achieved relative to state standards. This may be useful if your children are considering participating in public school classes (full or part time) or if they are considering becoming dually enrolled. Keep in mind, the scores that your children receive would not be included in any public school’s reporting. This blurb is from this memo. Glenn Bailey said, “No, if a student is coded as a home school/foreign exchange student in the student census then their results are excluded from Accountability decisions and assessment results reporting.

Thank you!

Michael's Response: Yes, your notes are still accurate. Our policy on home school students has not changed.

**Question of the Week:**

We are confused about the Text to Speech Requests. On the TTS 3-5 Form, it states we need to submit the request and get approval. However, on the TTS 6-9 form, it states we need to submit a request, but the AOE is not approving. Why do we need to submit the request if the AOE doesn't need to approve?

Answer: Starting in 2019, the state will be entering all TTS Accommodations in TIDE. We still need to know the student's information in order to assign the accommodation in TIDE, even if we are not approving requests in grades 6-9.