

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Team

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## Message from the Director: Public Reporting

Many of you have called or emailed to ask when the Agency plans to release the spring 2018 Smarter Balanced results, and if the public reporting embargo is still in place. Technically, we lifted the embargo on releasing local results back in June. However, because of a recent development, we are asking you to delay any additional reporting until we release the state results. Here's why:

Before certifying results for release, our assessment vendors completed a variety of quality control procedures. Late last week, one of our consortium partners identified an eighth-grade math test item that had been coded incorrectly as being less difficult than it actually was. Because the test is computer adaptive, only about a third of 8th grade students were assigned the item by the adaptive algorithm. Unfortunately, for those students it is likely that they would receive an artificially low score amounting to about three scale score points if that item was included in their scores.

We asked our test vendor to rescore the grade-eight math assessment with the problem item removed. In return, they have asked us to delay reporting for this week while they complete the process. We will alert you via the VTCAP newsletter, an email blast, and/or a [portal email blast](#) when we have the exact date. Smarter Balanced has also completed an analysis of all the other test items used during the 2018 administration and they have determined that no other items were miscoded. We apologize for the delay and thank you for your patience while we resolve the issue. However, we are glad to see that our quality control procedures are working as intended. I would much rather write to ask for your patience than to beg your forgiveness for publishing bad data.

**Michael Hock, State Assessment Director**

### **P.S.**

The assessment workgroup hopes your first weeks of school have been good ones, and wishes you a safe and successful school year. As you may know, this year all the new components of the ESSA-based accountability system will be up and running. The following newsletter is a quick overview of what you might expect moving forward and who to contact if you have questions.

**State Assessment Date(s)**

**Smarter Balanced** ELA & MA: Grades 3-9

March 12-May 31, 2019

Student Make-Up dates: June 3-End of Year

**VTSA:** Grades 5, 8, 11

April 16 – May 31, 2019

**Alternate ELA/MA/Science:** TBD

**VTPEA:** Grades 4, 7, 9

April 1-May 31, 2019

**ACCESS 2.0:** K-12

January 7-March 8, 2019

(Including students whose parents have opted not to receive ESL services)

**Smarter Balanced**

**AIR Road Trip Dates: October 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>**

10/23 Montpelier (p.m.)

10/24 Killington (p.m.)

10/25 Mt. Snow (a.m.)

10/26 Burlington (a.m.)

The meetings will address traditional topics about new features in TIDE, ORS, and Air Ways in addition to information on the VTSA, VTPEA and the new VTCLIM. Every district may send up to three representatives. We strongly encourage the District Test Administrators to attend.

**New Email Domains:** Normally, district mergers do not disrupt access to test data; however, passwords need to be manually reset. This is because password resets are sent to the email on file (old email), and therefore, the new email never gets the link. Please contact the AIR/VT Help Desk at 1-844-218-1184 / [ythelpdesk@air.org](mailto:ythelpdesk@air.org) regarding any issues with portal access.

**Systems Go-Live Dates**

TIDE: 9/18/18

Recertification: 9/18/2018

Interims (IABs/ICAs): 9/26/2018

AVA: 9/26/2018

ORS (interims): 9/26/2018

Air Ways: 10/2/2018



## Vermont School Climate Survey: VTCLIM

The Assessment Team is pleased to announce that the Vermont School Climate Survey (VTCLIM, “vee-tee-climb”) will be rolling out in spring 2019.

**Why?** Vermont takes a holistic approach to measuring school performance, which includes school climate. School climate is linked to “attendance, achievement, retention, and even rates of graduation.”

**What?** We’ve adopted the school climate survey designed by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education. Click [here](#) to learn more.

**Who?** All students in grades 5, 6, 7, and 10, as well as **all** adults working in school buildings. There are many built in accessibility features available for students with disabilities as well as a Spanish version.

**How?** The VTCLIM is taken online. Survey respondents can use computers, smartphones, or tablets to take the VTCLIM.

More information will be forthcoming.

Questions or comments? Contact Sarah Birgé, School Climate Survey Coordinator, at 802-479-1426 / [sarah.birge@vermont.gov](mailto:sarah.birge@vermont.gov).

## Vermont Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA)

The VTPEA assesses the fitness levels of all VT students to inform and provide feedback for local programs thereby creating instructional opportunities to develop lifelong and life enhancing healthy fitness habits.

The VTPEA includes a number of assessment tools to provide access to all students in Vermont: [FitnessGram](#), the Brockport Physical Fitness Test, and Individualized Fitness Assessments (IFA). The assessment will collect data of students’ aerobic capacity, upper body muscular strength and endurance, abdominal muscular strength and endurance and flexibility. These tools will be used for state and federal accountability purposes starting in 2019.

### New For the 2018-2019 school year

1. All publicly funded 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to participate.
2. Test window: April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>
3. Schools FitnessGram licenses will expire on December 31, 2018. However, schools will receive new licenses on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, paid for by the Agency of Education.

Please contact Gabriel McGann 802-479-1444 / [Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov](mailto:Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov) with any questions.

## Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA)

The 2019 VTSA administration the test window will be from April 16<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>. We are excited to announce that the practice test is being updated to reflect the quality of the content and technology used for this new assessment.

For questions regarding the VTSA please contact Gabriel McGann, [Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov](mailto:Gabriel.McGann@vermont.gov), or Margaret Carrera-Bly, [Margaret.Carrera-Bly@vermont.gov](mailto:Margaret.Carrera-Bly@vermont.gov)

### Spanish Translation: Toggle

New for 2019 is the Spanish/English Toggle feature. Rather than having both languages stacked on top of one another, students will be able to toggle between Spanish and English. For 2019, this designated support will **only** be available on the VTSA, and it must be preset in TIDE.

## Interims / Digital Library

### Interims

Production started on a newer item type for the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) this year. The new IABs will be more target specific and focus on a smaller set of skills. Additionally, the answer keys will be moved to AIR Ways this year and appear under the book icon with the Digital Library links.

### SNE Interest

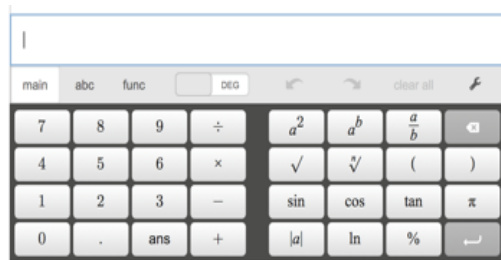
Anyone interested in becoming a State Network Educator (SNE) should complete an [Educator Recruitment Application](#) and send it to [Linda Moreno](#) for review. SNEs are educators the Assessment Team uses for assessment related work as well as work on the Digital Library Connections Playlists. All opportunities are considered professional development and count towards educator license renewal.

## Accessibility Features: New/Changes

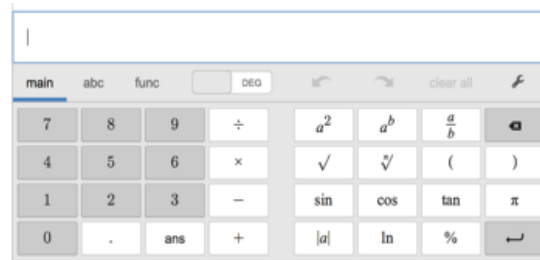
### Desmos Calculator

Added color contrast and Distinguishes number pad from function keys

#### Old



#### New



### Mandatory IDEA Indicator

Starting this year (2018-19), the IDEA Indicator will be a required field. DAs will need to select either the IDEA indicator or the 504 indicator in TIDE in order to assign accommodations for students. All students using accommodations on any state mandated test must have an active IEP or 504 designation in the tested area.

(Continued)

### Illustration Glossaries- Designated Support

Smarter Balanced is slowly transitioning into the use of illustration glossaries for students whose primary language is not represented on the assessment. Picture Glossaries will be considered a Designated Support for any student who demonstrates a need. Although much of the pilot study was focused on English Learners, there still might be a need for students with certain learning disabilities. In 2019, the illustration glossaries will only be available on the math practice tests. The AOE also plans to do additional cognitive labs in November throughout the state. Please let [Linda Moreno](#) know if you would like to participate in the study.

### New Supported Language: Burmese Glossary

Students whose first language (L1) is Burmese will now have the ability to select the Burmese glossary on the Smarter Balanced math assessment. An updated Embedded Glossary [list](#) will be available on the [VTCAP Portal](#) within the next few weeks.



### Question of the Week: *If I order a paper/pencil version of the test, will student eligibility automatically be noted in TIDE?*

No. Simply ordering the paper/pencil online or in TIDE will not set the eligibility. This is a two-step process. In 2018/19, scribes for both the Smarter Balanced and the VTSA will use the Data Entry Interface (DEI). Although this is new for Smarter Balanced, VTSA used the DEI in 2018.



### Courtesy Post

#### [Help Wanted](#)

Audience: Retirees, Part-Time Educators, Para-Professionals, etc.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is seeking motivated individuals to proctor in-school assessment sessions with 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Proctors must be available to work January 28 –March 8, 2019. All proctors will receive paid training, paid time (weekly) and mileage reimbursement for local driving. This is a part-time, temporary position. For more information, visit <http://www.workNAEP.com> and provide your name and email. We will contact you with a link to our online application when it is available. Online applications will be accepted beginning in June 2018. Questions? Email: [NAEPrecruit@westat.com](mailto:NAEPrecruit@westat.com).