




## SBA: Next Generation Online Digital Assessments and GPS



The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) is a standardized online digital assessment based on the Common Core State Standards. To achieve the goal that all students leave high school ready for college and career, Smarter Balanced is committed to accurately assessing the performance of all students, regardless of disability, language or subgroup status relative to the Common Core State Standards.

Districts were provided with an option to administer the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test instead of Connecticut's legacy assessment: The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). Greenwich will participate in the SBA-Field Test in 2014.

TOPIC	PLAN
<p>District Testing Window for 13-14</p> 	<p>Greenwich will participate in testing Grades 5, 8 and 10 on the <b>CMT and CAPT Science</b>. Testing will begin March 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>Greenwich will participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test (SBA-FT). The purpose of the Field Test is to research and ensure the assessments are valid, reliable, and fair for all students. It will provide GPS educators with a chance to gauge the readiness in advance of the first operational assessment in spring 2015.</p> <p>The SBA-FT Window opens March 18<sup>th</sup> and will close June 6<sup>th</sup>. Greenwich Public Schools has chosen to begin assessing April 28 through June 6<sup>th</sup>. In order to accommodate the number and timing of Advanced Placement (AP) assessments, GHS with GPS will petition the state to allow the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade to take the SBAC May 19<sup>th</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup> to accommodate AP assessments.</p> <p>The testing windows are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grades 5, 7 &amp; 8 will be assessed in ELA and Mathematics April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 16<sup>th</sup>;</li> <li>• Grade 3, 4, 6 and 11 will be assessed in ELA and Mathematics May 16<sup>th</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
 <p>Scheduling for the SBAC</p>	<p>The District Test Coordinator (DTC) in collaboration with the Site Test Coordinator (SC) are developing school based schedules for the administration of the SBAC. Each SC is taking into the consideration the number of computers available, the assessment sequence and the ability to ensure that all planned learning and activities can take place without interruption.</p> <p>School programs, events, and activities will continue as planned throughout the testing windows. We will try to avoid adding any new events or activities during the testing windows that have not already been scheduled. However, some dates may have changed to accommodate the scheduling of the SBA-FT.</p>
<p>Test Format</p> 	<p>The SBAC test format includes selected response (multiple choice), constructed response (short-answer), technology enhanced (video, animation, sound interactive tools) and technology enabled (interaction, digital media, manipulation of information). The test is adaptive and will recalibrate incrementally based on the students' response within their grade level. Students will be allowed to use scrap paper, but all answers will need to be placed into the digital assessment. Students will also have access to a digital notepad where they can record notes and will be able to retrieve them in part II of the assessment. Paper and pencil tests will not be an option.</p>
<p>Modifications and Accommodations</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Usability, and Accommodations Guidelines</a> provides a thorough overview of the current universal tools available to ALL students adopted by SBAC states. Regardless of the district assessment choice, students with disabilities must be provided with all required accommodations and modifications, as per their Individualized Education Plans (IEP). English Language Learners can access embedded designated supports, such as Text-to-Speech, Translations, and Translation Glossary. An English Dictionary and /or a Thesaurus may be provided for ELA Full Write Items for any student.</p>

<p>Learning for the SBAC</p> 	<p>The key to success on the SBAC will be mastery of Common Core Content and, performance standards, which are central to the GPS Curriculum and Instruction. Narrow test prep will be ineffective. Providing opportunities for students to read screen-based texts, digital writing as online writers, and reading informational text from blogs, wikis and other digital portals will prepare students for success. SBAC will provide online training modules for schools to use for professional learning to support the administration of the assessment.</p> <p>GPS will provide teachers with instructional strategies for <i>embedding the assessment</i> in daily instruction, such as engaging students in complex texts, providing opportunities to analyze the text for the moral, meaning and message, and to argue opposing viewpoints. GPS developed and implemented performance tasks in both ELA and Mathematics to provide opportunities for students to engage in a simulated task format like that of the SBAC and to demonstrate in a rigorous way their mastery of the content learned.</p>
<p>Preparing for the SBAC: Operations and Logistics</p> 	<p>The IT department will complete testing the speed of network connections at each of the school using the Education Superhighway network speed test tool, published by Amazon.com and endorsed by CSDE. The department will specifically look to quantify the impact of the high school's new independent Internet connection, in addition to the forecasted impact that a Mobile Account client architecture for teachers will have on end-user service.</p> <p>The District Test Coordinator will work with the Site Test Coordinators on the preparation, scheduling and administration of the SBA-FT. The DTC will provide training modules through webinars and face-to-face workshops to support the preparation.</p>
<p>Informing Parents and the Community</p> 	<p>GPS has been actively communicating the transition to the Common Core State Standards and the preparation for the SBAC FT. The following events are present and ongoing to support communication to all stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCSS Parent Curriculum Nights</li> <li>• PTAC Workshops on SBAC, Digital Learning and CCSS</li> <li>• SBA- FAQ Updates developed and distributed via Parentlink</li> <li>• Parent Communication Letters</li> </ul>
<p>Test Reporting</p> 	<p>The 2015 Operational Smarter Balanced Assessment will provide Student performance reports in one of four performance categories with a correlated scale score.</p> <p>The Field Test is an evaluation of items and processes, therefore at this time, the 2014 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment will not yield any individual student results. The Connecticut State Department of Education may provide information regarding the administration of the field test to districts in Winter 2015. Any SB-Field Test results obtained will not be used for student placement purposes.</p> <p>GPS will work closely with the CSDE on how best to report information gleaned from the Field Test.</p>
<p>Graduation Requirements</p>	<p>Per board policy E-004, students will be expected to demonstrate competence by attaining a high level on the SBA Assessment that best correlates to the CAPT during the operational SBA in 2015.</p> <p>The CSDE will provide additional guidance on graduation requirements.</p>

## Resources for Educators, Students and Parents

Follow us on **Twitter** @greenwichpsCIPL for updates and links to resources and materials

**GPS and the Common Core:** <http://www.greenwichschools.org/page.cfm?p=11231>

**GPS and the SBAC:** <http://www.greenwichschools.org/page.cfm?p=11325>

**Teachers:** <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/>

**Parents and Students:** <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>

**En Española:** <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/como-ayudar-a-todos-los-estudiantes-a-que-tengan-exito/>

**Smarter Balanced Practice Test:** <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

