

Legislation Replaces STAR With Smarter Balanced Assessments

On October 2, 2013, Governor **Jerry Brown** signed Assembly Bill 484 (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/ab484qa.asp>) which replaces the current STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) assessment with a new, computer-based assessment called “Smarter Balanced”. These new assessments will be field tested this spring for students in grades 3 – 8 and 11, in place of the STAR. Because it is a field test, students in these grade levels will take either English-Language Arts (ELA) or Math, as assigned by Smarter Balanced.

While students or schools will not receive scores for the field test, they will have a valuable opportunity to “try on” the new tests to see what the testing experience is like. It will also help us as a school and district assess how prepared we are for this new 21st Century testing model.

The STAR Writing tests, given in March each year to students in grades 4 and 7 will no longer be administered. However, the STAR Science test (paper and pencil) will still be given to students in grades 5 and 8 during the Smarter Balanced testing window.

As you can imagine, this is very big news for all schools across California! We at CHEP are collecting information as it becomes available so that we can share it with you. As we get more details and make our plans, you will receive mailings and information from your teachers that will provide specifics regarding the testing schedule, as well as which students have been assigned ELA and which have been assigned Math.

In the meantime, please take time to look at the Smarter Balanced practice tests, available online at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/>.

[Select the box titled "Student Interface Practice Test." At the Sign In page, there is already a default "Guest" login so you just need to select the "Sign-In" button. The system will then ask you to select a grade level from the dropdown box to test at. Select the grade level of your choice and click "Yes." Finally, you will be given the option of testing in the ELA section, Math section or Performance Tasks. Select your preference and start testing!]

You may also find the following informational resources from the California Department of Education very helpful:

Smarter Balanced Assessment System:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>

Smarter Balanced Field Test Questions and Answers: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterftqa.asp>

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Call the Administration Office at 714-327-1000 or email me at jdoney@ocde.us .

Thank you,

Jane Doney, Principal