



WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"Schools Committed to Excellence"

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NEIL C. CAVALLARO
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians of West Haven Students,

West Haven and school districts across the state and country are implementing the Common Core State Standards in classrooms to better prepare students for college and careers. These updated academic expectations require a new standardized test.

This year, West Haven plans to administer the Smarter Balanced Field Test, which assesses Common Core State Standards, to students in grades three through eight, ten and eleven. Students will complete this test using a school computer instead of paper test booklets. This test will replace the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) for reading, writing and mathematics. Students in grades five, eight and ten will still take the science portion of the CMT and CAPT because the Smarter Balanced Field Test does not currently assess science content.

We anticipate giving the Smarter Balanced Field Test between March and June and will send you more details in the coming months, as necessary. Parents of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) can also expect a letter on how their child will be accommodated during testing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Neil C. Cavallaro
Superintendent of Schools

What is a field test?

The Smarter Balance Field Test (SBFT) is called a “field test” this year because it will help determine what items should be on future Smarter Balanced Assessments.

How is the SBFT test different from the CAPT or CMT?

CMT and CAPT

- Uses pencil and paper
- Aligned with learning standards no longer being used
- Results come out in the summer



SBFT

- Uses school computers
- Aligned with new Common Core State Standards currently being used in class
- Results for spring 2014 test may come out next fall



Test students will take this year	Grade
Smarter Balanced Field Test for reading, writing, mathematics	Grades 3-8 and grades 10,11
CMT for science	Grades 5, 8
CAPT for science	Grade 10