

## Smarter Balanced Assessment

This spring, Manchester Public Schools will participate in the field test for Connecticut’s new annual state standardized test, the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This new assessment measures student performance in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and grade 11. The test replaces the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) tests. The science CMT will continue in grades 5 and 8 and the Science CAPT will continue in grade 10.

### **How does the Smarter Balanced Assessment address student achievement?**

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted by Connecticut, 44 other states, four territories and the District of Columbia as the basis for developing and implementing curriculum that supports all students in becoming “college and career ready.” Two testing consortiums have been awarded the rights to develop assessments that measure student outcomes on the CCSS. Connecticut, along with 25 other states, will administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment to measure those outcomes. This year the field test is part of the final developmental phase of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment. The field test is being given to measure the effectiveness of test questions at each grade level and will assess Manchester’s technology system.

### **What grade levels will be tested?**

Grades 3-8 and 11 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment.  
Grades 5, 8, and 10 will also take the Science CMT/CAPT.

### **How will the test be administered?**

The test is completed online.

### **When will the test be administered?**

The Connecticut State Department of Education established testing windows for this spring, and the district has created a tentative schedule. Each school in Manchester is working to develop a specific daily schedule following these time frames:

#### **2014 SMARTER BALANCED TESTING WINDOWS**

March 25 – April 11	April 22 – May 9	May 19 – June 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 3-5 (all elementary)</li><li>• Grade 6 (Bennet)</li><li>• Grade 8 (Illing)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 7 (Illing)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 11 (MHS)</li></ul>

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#### **2014 SCIENCE CMT/CAPT**

March 3 - 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 5 (all elementary)</li><li>• Grade 8 (Illing)</li><li>• Grade 10 (MHS)</li></ul>

### **How long does it take to administer the test?**

The total amount of time will be similar to CMT/CAPT. The test duration estimates per student range from 7.0 – 8.5 hours with the expectation that students may complete the test over many days in 45 minute intervals. The actual test is untimed. The regular instructional schedule for students will be followed as closely as possible throughout the testing windows.

### **Why are Manchester students taking this test instead of the CMT/CAPT this year?**

This year, Connecticut has offered all districts a choice in the administration of required testing:

- 1) Maintain the current CMT/CAPT assessment for one year
- 2) Administer the Smarter Balanced Field Test, or
- 3) Administer both sets of tests.

The CMT /CAPT Science Test requirements remain for Grades 5, 8 and 10 regardless of the district choice. Manchester, along with all but approximately 20 Connecticut districts, has elected to participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test to prepare staff and students for the test, and to prepare for the technological demands associated with this test. The assessment will:

- Allow for assessment of our technology readiness to administer online tests
- Make students and teachers more familiar with the test questions which are different than those on CMT/CAPT

### **Why must students take CMT/CAPT Science?**

The test is still required by state law for all students in Grades 5, 8 and 10.

### **My child already took the CAPT in Grade 10. Why should he/she take the Smarter Balanced Field Test in Grade 11?**

The Connecticut State Department of Education requires all Grade 11 students to participate. Students will not be excused from taking the test.

### **How is my child being prepared to take this test?**

Manchester is preparing students for these assessments through instruction in curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and in use of technology to respond to tasks that are similar to those on the test.

### **How will my child's test results be reported?**

The Connecticut State Department of Education has not determined the specific type of data that districts will receive.