

Memo

TO: Dr. Lynne Pierson, Interim Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Timothy Canty, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
DATE: January 24, 2014
RE: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Field Test

In October 2013, the Administration recommended that the Darien Public Schools participate in the Spring 2014 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Field Test (SBAC-FT) in English/Language Arts and Mathematics for students in Grades 3-8 and 11. The field test will provide administrators, staff, and students with the opportunity to become familiar with the content and format of the assessments prior to actual testing in 2014-2015. The testing window for the administration of the Smarter Balanced Field Tests is between March 18 and June 6, 2014.

A District committee has been formed to oversee the administration of the SBAC-FT. The team has established an Action Plan for the administration of the exams, including ensuring the readiness of our students to take a computerized assessment, providing professional development for staff, and development of a testing calendar. In addition, day and evening parent information sessions dealing with the administration of the SBAC-FT have been scheduled during the month of February. The Connecticut State Department of Education is expected to issue further guidance to local school districts on the administration of the SBAC-FT during the week of January 27, 2014.

I will present the Action Plan to the Board of Education at its meeting scheduled for January 28, 2014 (PowerPoint presentation). This will be part of a series of monthly updates that will be provided to the Board of Education on the status of SBAC-FT administration.