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## **Smarter Balanced Assessment**

***NEW ASSESSMENT. NEW RESULTS***

***What do families need to know?***

## SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT: NEW ASSESSMENT. NEW RESULTS

### Overview of Discussion

1. What the new state assessment means for your child
2. What your child can expect
3. Ways to support your child
4. How to interpret assessment results
5. Additional resources for families

## **Smarter Balanced Assessment:** New Assessment. New Results

- In 2010, the State of New Hampshire adopted higher, more focused standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy to better prepare students for college and careers.
- New standards require new state assessments that better measure the knowledge and skills found in these standards (NH College and Career Ready Standards).
- In the Timberlane Regional School District we have aligned our curriculum to the NH College and Career Ready Standards.
- This assessment will provide a more accurate snapshot of how students are performing on a path to success after high school. Additionally, This we can feel more confident that the Smarter Balance assessment measures what we are teaching in our schools.

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

• **The new assessments include two sections that are each taken online:**

### **1. Computer Adaptive Assessment**

- Short-answer, multiple-choice questions and interactive assessment items
- Questions adjust to each student's ability

### **2. Performance Task**

- Longer multi-step questions, including essays
- Students solve real-world problems

## **Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results**

### **The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**

- A group of states, including New Hampshire, worked together to develop this high-quality assessment in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are aligned to the state standards.
- The assessments were field-tested in spring 2014 by more than 4 million students in 21 states, including New Hampshire.

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

# What Does the English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment Measure?

- Can students **read closely** to understand different types of texts?
- Can students **write effectively** for multiple purposes and audiences?
- Can students **listen effectively** for different purposes?
- Can students use **research skills** to investigate topics, and analyze, integrate and present information?

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

# What Does the Mathematics Assessment Measure?

- Can students explain and use math **concepts** to solve problems?
- Can students solve math problems using their knowledge of concepts and **problem solving** strategies?
- Can students **explain, justify, illustrate, or defend** their reasoning about a solution to a problem and be able to look at other solutions to do the same?
- Can students solve problems by using math **models** to represent a situation and interpret information from the problem to solve the problem?

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

### Smarter Balanced Tests



Former National Teacher of the Year Sarah Brown Wessling explains the new Smarter Balanced tests.





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**Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results**

***What Your Child Experienced***

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

# What's Different About These Assessments?

**1. The new assessments go beyond a paper-and-pencil test.**

**2. Computer-based assessments have:**

- **Interactive items:** i.e., matching, complete a table with missing information, click and drag
- **Accessibility features and supports:** built-in accommodations aligned to the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- **Computer Adaptive:** Questions adjust to each student's ability

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

### How long did the assessments take?

- Smarter Balanced Assessments are untimed. Students can take as much time as they need to finish. This allows students to think critically, explore, read carefully and write a well-thought response.
- Total Estimated Testing Time: 6-7½ hours total, administered in periods over several weeks (*similar in many grades to the NECAP given previously*).

### When were the assessments be given?

- Administered in the Spring (April/May)



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**Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results**

# ***How to Interpret Assessment Results***

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

- With the new assessment, students will receive new scores.
- **Results will be different.**
  - In some cases, performance may look lower on the Smarter Balanced assessment than what we are used to seeing on the NECAP, but please do not compare the results.
- This is to be expected because **we are using a different measure – a different assessment, and we have higher standards.**
- This does not mean that students are learning less. Rather, it reflects that we set a new, higher bar and last year's assessment is a baseline from which our students will grow.

## **Smarter Balanced Assessment:** New Assessment. New Results

This is certainly a big shift for our students and teachers—but one that holds great promise for our children. By making this transition, we have another quality measure to determine if our kids will be able to meet the demands of college and the 21st-century workforce.

# Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

## Individual Student Report

How did my student perform on the Mathematics test?

Test: Smarter Summative Mathematics Grade 5

Year: 2014-2015

Name: Lastname, Firstname M.

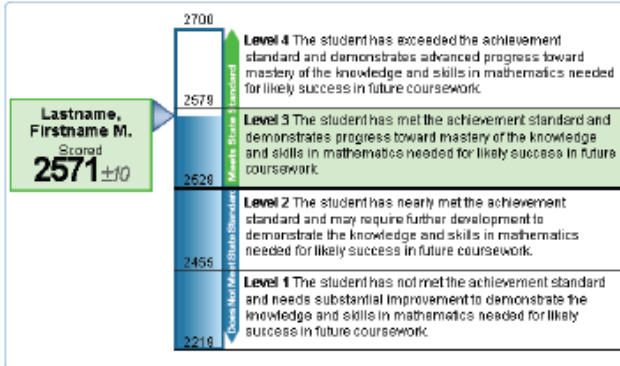
### Legend: Claims Performance Levels

 Below Standard 
  At/Near Standard 
  Above Standard

### Student Test Performance

Name	SSID	Scale Score	Achievement Level
Lastname, Firstname M.	9999990089	2571	Level 3




### Scale Score and Overall Performance



### Comparison Scores

Name	Average Scale Score
New Hampshire	2514 ±1
Demo District 1 (999999999)	2522 ±11
Demo School 1 (999999999-999999999)	2522 ±11

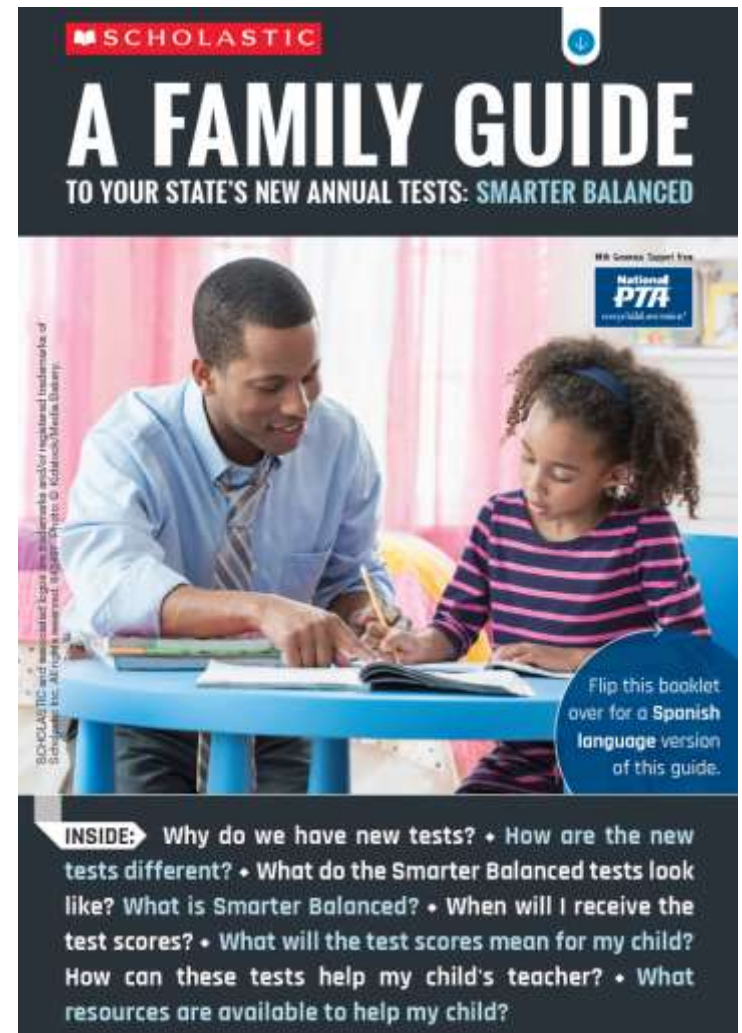
### Student Test Performance

Claim	Performance	Claim Description
Concepts and Procedures		Student can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.
Problem Solving and Modeling & Data Analysis		Student can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem solving strategies. Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems.
Communicating Reasoning		Student may be able to clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others.

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

This guide will answer questions about what the Smarter Balanced assessment means for your child and provides tips to support your child at home.

[www.bealearninghero.org](http://www.bealearninghero.org)





## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

### How Will Scores Be Used to Help Your Child?

1. Assessment results will allow parents, teachers and students to know whether students are on track each year.
2. Results provide an annual snapshot of student achievement that should be used along with other information, such as class work and other assessments, when making educational decisions.
3. Although an important measure, results are not a sole measure of student achievement, program evaluation or school, district, and state accountability systems.



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**Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results**

## ***Ways to Support Your Child***

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results

### How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Have your child read a variety of materials at home, including fiction and informational texts.
- Involve learning in everyday activities, such as cooking or shopping. Ask children to express opinions and to back their views.
- Encourage your child to do his/her best.
- Visit the [Skill Builder](#) website that Be A Learning Hero recently launched. It contains specific, actionable information for parents, customized to the grade level of their children and described relative to the sections of the assessment.



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**Smarter Balanced Assessment: New Assessment. New Results**

***Additional Resources for Families***

## Where Can I Learn More?

- **PTA Parent Guides to Student Success**  
<http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>
- **Belearninghero.org**  
<http://belearninghero.org/>
- **New Hampshire Department of Education, Student Assessment**  
<http://education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/sbac/index.htm>
- **New Hampshire Smarter Balanced Portal**  
<http://nh.portal.airast.org/>
- **Smarter Balanced Website, family page**  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>
- **Smarter Balanced Practice Tests**  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>

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***Questions?***