



GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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March 30, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to inform you that the Connecticut state-wide tests will be administered to all students in grades 3-8, and in grade 11 in May and June. Connecticut has adopted challenging academic standards, including the Connecticut Core Standards in mathematics and English language arts, as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Since there was no assessment last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we aren't able to compare this year's data to last year.

The state assessment plan is one way that educators in Connecticut can measure student performance, determine strengths and challenges, and inform their instruction. State summative assessments are like academic checkups. These assessments help teachers and parents see students' academic growth from year to year, in a typical year. The results can reveal areas where students excel and where they need support. The state requires assessments in the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics using the Smarter Balanced Assessment at the elementary and middle school levels (grades 3-8) and in grade 11 using the SAT, which can also be used as a college entrance exam. The state also requires assessments in science in grades 5, 8 and 11, using the NGSS standards.

The Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments are both administered on computers. Computer testing enables assessment of more complex skills efficiently. The assessments are designed to measure skills in reading comprehension, writing, mathematics, and real-world science using questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. Additional supports are available for students with special needs, as determined by an individualized education program (IEP) or for students with a 504 Plan.

Please refer to your child's school webpage to view the exact testing dates/times. We need all students to take the SBAC in-person.

To find resources specifically for parents and guardians, including ways to help your child with the CT Core Standards at home, please visit www.ctcorestandards.org or <https://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides>.

As always, we ask for your assistance as we encourage our students to do their best. It is important that they come to school well rested and ready to perform optimally. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's building Principal or Assistant Principal.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Austin
Superintendent of Schools