

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING SBAC TESTING 2015

State mandated SBAC testing for Juniors will take place on May 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28.

The following document addresses a number of questions that have been raised by students and parents regarding the testing.

### **What is the content of the tests?**

Every student will take four tests:

- a. English I
- b. English II, featuring performance tasks
- c. Math I
- d. Math II, featuring performance tasks

The tests will be administered in four sessions of 1.5 to 2 hours each.

### **What is a performance task?**

Performance tasks challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to real-world problems. They can best be described as collections of questions and activities that are connected to a single theme or scenario. These activities are meant to measure capacities such as depth of understanding, research skills, and complex analysis, which cannot be adequately assessed with multiple choice questions.

### **How will a student's schedule be impacted?**

The entire testing window takes place over six days, three days in the first week and three days in the second week, but each student will only be scheduled to test on four of those days, two sessions in each week. In a given week, one test will take place during a morning testing session (periods 1,2, and 4), and the other session will take place in the afternoon on a different day (the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> time blocks – the periods will be different depending on the period rotation of that day). This pattern will be repeated in week 2. The total testing time for a student is approximately eight hours, and no class period is affected more than two times. As a means of comparison, the former standardized test called the CAPT totaled almost eleven hours when students took all subject areas.

Here is a visual example:

Each box below the dates represents a testing session with a list of periods that are impacted. Let's say your student is assigned to the testing sessions labeled with an "X."

	May 19	May 20	May 21
Week 1	AM Per 2,1,4 <input type="checkbox"/> X	AM Per 1,2,4	AM Per 2,1,4
	PM Per. 7,8,5	PM Per 6,5,7 <input type="checkbox"/> X	PM Per 8,7,5

	May 26	May 27	May 28
Week 2	AM Per 2,1,4 <input type="checkbox"/> X	AM Per 1,2,4	AM Per 2,1,4
	PM Per. 7,8,5	PM Per 6,5,7 <input type="checkbox"/> X	PM Per 8,7,5

Over the two week time frame the student will only miss 2 classes that meet during a given period. Out of a potential of 80 instructional periods over two weeks, the student will be testing for 12 of those periods.

**What if my student needs more time?**

Most students should finish the testing in the allotted time, however, if a student reaches the end of the testing session, and has not finished, he/she can log out of the test and then log in at a future time. However, the student will not be able to go back and change previous answers, only address the questions the student had not answered yet.

**What will be happening in class while my student takes the test?**

Since this is a computer-based test, we only have the resources to test one-third of the junior class at any given time. While this presents a challenge for our teachers, they have advance notice and are planning for this schedule. Students who miss class for a testing session can be assured that teachers will assist them in staying current with course material and class activities. Students will not be penalized for missing classroom activities or assignments while they were taking the test.

**What if my student is scheduled for lunch during one of the testing periods?**

Every student being tested will have a time allotted for lunch.

**Why should I care about my student taking the SBAC?**

The State of CT is requiring that all juniors take the test. We also know that the SBAC will be one of the few assessments that will allow outside agencies, such as colleges, to compare school scores across states, regions, and towns. Since this is year one of full, mandatory participation, we don't yet know how scores will be used, but it is possible that the state will use participation rates and scores as indicators of a school's performance. We want our school always to be recognized as a high performing school. This can only enhance the standing of our students in the eyes of colleges and others educational institutions.

**What if I want to "opt" my student out of the test?**

We are not given an "opt-out" option by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The State of CT is requiring full participation of all students in public schools.

**What is my student's testing schedule and how will they know?**

The testing schedule is included in this document. The schedule and the testing program will be explained to juniors by the Headmaster.

**What if my student is absent on the scheduled testing day?**

Students are able to access any incomplete portion of the test at any time on designated computers. To make up any missed sections, they could utilize extra/leftover time on a future testing session or we may schedule them during a different house's testing session.

## Schedule for SBAC Testing Days 2015

NOTICE SWAP of Homeroom and Timeblock 4

	Actual time:	
TB 1	7:30 – 8:15	<u>Morning Testing Session</u>
TB 2	8:20 – 9:04	Testing Time: 7:30 – 9:53
<b>TB 4</b>	9:09 – 9:53	Testing House reports directly to assigned
<b>HR</b>	9:58- 10:05	computer lab at 7:30
TB 5	10:10-10:54	<u>Afternoon Testing Session</u>
TB 6	10:59-11:43	Testing House reports to lunch in CAFÉ at 9:58-10:20
TB 7	11:48-12:32	Testing Time: 10:25 – 12:32
TB 8	12:37-1:21	
TB 9	1:29-2:10	

Period Rotation:

	Tues May 19/26	Wed May 20/27	Thurs May 21/28
A.M. test	2	1	2
block	1	2	1
	4	4	4
	HR	HR	HR
P.M. test	7	6	8
block	8	5	7
	5	7	5
	6	8	6
	9	9	9

Period lengths are not altered

**NO ACTIVITY PERIOD OR ADVISORY ON May 19 and 26**

11th grade Testing Schedule for Houses:

	Tues May 19/26	Wed May 20/27	Thurs May 21/28
A.M. test			
block	Warner	Webster	Wright
	HR	HR	HR
P.M. test			
block	Wright	Warner	Webster