

Fairfield Warde High School
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February 22, 2014

Dear 11th Grade Parents and Guardians:

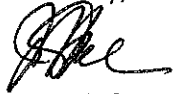
The Fairfield Public Schools, along with schools in 24 states, will participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test this spring. At Fairfield Warde, all 11th grade students will participate in the Field Test in mathematics and English language arts / literacy.

We plan to administer the field test on the following dates: March 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26. The tests are not timed; however, it will take approximately 3 to 4 hours to complete each content area test. The school schedule will be adjusted slightly to accommodate the testing sessions and to provide time for lunch for the test takers. Students will be taking the field test on four of the six dates listed, two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon.

The Connecticut Department of Education expects all 11th grade students to take the SBAC Field Test and since our school district has agreed to participate, it is our expectation that all juniors will complete the assessments to the best of their ability. The Field Test is an opportunity to "test the test". Information from the field test will be used to evaluate the testing software, the quality of the questions, and the effectiveness of the test administration. Students will be able to try out new, online testing software and new types of questions that will be similar to future Smarter Balanced assessments. Our students' participation will influence the development of the Smarter Balanced assessments which will be Connecticut's statewide assessment beginning in 2014-15. Every student response is a valuable piece of information that will be used to ensure that the new assessments are valid, reliable, and fair for all students.

More information on the Smarter Balanced assessment can be found on their website at www.smarterbalanced.org. If you have questions about your son's or daughter's participation, please contact his / her housemaster.

Sincerely,



James J. Coyne
Headmaster