

SBAC TESTING 2014 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Our goal in establishing the dates for SBAC testing has always been to minimize the impact on instructional time. When the initial dates were selected, the last day of school was June 11 and the last available testing window for SBAC was not feasible due to the end of year schedule.

The extension of the school year due to snow days has provided us with the opportunity to move the SBAC testing to late May, after AP exams. The testing will now take place on May 20,21,22,27,28,and 29.

The following document addresses a number of questions and concerns raised by students and parents.

What is the content of the tests?

Every student will take four tests:

- English I
- English II Performance Task
- Math I
- Math II Performance Task

For each test, we have scheduled a two hour block of time.

What is a performance task?

Performance tasks require 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 standard multiple choice and short answer questions.

How will my student's schedule be impacted?

The entire testing window takes place over 6 days, three days in the first week and three days in the second week, but each student will only be scheduled on 4 of those days, 2 sessions in each week. In a given week, a student will take one test during the first 3 class periods (1, 2, and 4), and the other session will take place during three periods that occur later in the day (time blocks 5,6,7). The periods will be different depending on the period rotation of that day. This pattern will be repeated in week two. This schedule ensures that for any given period, a student will only miss a maximum of 2 classes (1 per week), and in some cases, only one period. The total testing time for a student is 8 hours.

See the visual representation on the next page.

In each box below the dates represent a testing session with the periods listed that are impacted. A sample student schedule is labeled with an "X."

	May 20	May 21	May 22
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 27	May 28	May 29
Week 2	AM Per 1,2,4 <input type="checkbox"/> X	AM Per 2,1,4	AM Per 1,2,4
	PM Per. 7, 8, 5	PM Per 6, 5, 7 <input type="checkbox"/> X	PM Per 8, 7, 5

In this example, over the two week time frame the student will miss 2 classes of any period that is affected – in this case Periods 1,2,4,5,6,7. While the test is given over a six day period, no student will miss six days of instruction as has been expressed by some concerned parents and students.

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 child takes the test?

The SBAC requires that student take the test on a computer. We only have the resources to test one-third of the junior class at any given time. Our teachers will be prepared for having a portion of each class missing during the testing periods. 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 about Advanced Placement test preparation?

Now that the testing window has changed to late May and after the AP tests, this is no longer an issue.

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

Every junior who is testing will be given the opportunity to go to lunch prior to the second testing period each day. Students testing in the second session will go to their morning classes (Per 1,2,4) and then report to the cafeteria from 9:58-10:20. They will then report to their assigned computer lab to take the test. This means that even students who do not have lunch in their regular schedule will have an opportunity to have a break and refuel prior to the testing.

Why should I care about my child taking the SBAC?

It is true that this test will not impact the class of 2015's fulfillment of graduation requirements. It is also true that the class of 2015 had to take the CAPT as sophomores and is now being asked to take the field test of SBAC as juniors. However, this whole endeavor is a necessary part of the process to ensure that future students will have a meaningful experience with valid and reliable questions and so that reliable norms and standards for future students can be established. If you have children younger than 11th grade, they will be the beneficiaries. If you have no children younger than 11th grade, your student's efforts will be helping others the same way he or she has benefitted from prior students taking pilot versions of CAPT, ACT, and SAT tests.

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

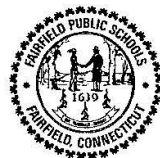
The district's position on "opting out" is expressed in the letter from Dr. Title below. The State of CT is requiring full participation of all students in public schools.

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

Similar to how we inform sophomores about their CAPT room assignments, we will post all the relevant information in front of house offices and the main office. In addition, Mr. Coyne will visit each 11th grade English class to explain the test, the schedule, and to answer students' questions.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

David G. Title, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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The Education Center

February 19, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is in response to your request to have your child opt-out of mandated state testing, which will be administered this spring. Unfortunately, Fairfield Public Schools has no choice in the matter. Federal and state laws require that all public school students be tested.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) does not allow parents to exempt their children from taking the state assessments. Although the State of Connecticut was granted ESEA flexibility, the U.S. Department of Education has not exempted the State of Connecticut from testing all students. The Connecticut General Statutes also require that "each student enrolled in grades three to eight inclusive, and grade ten or eleven in any public school shall, annually, in March or April take a mastery examination in reading, writing and mathematics." Like the federal statute, this state law also does not permit parents to exempt their children from taking the state assessment.

If a student has special needs due to a disability or medical condition, testing accommodations may be available. However, the school district must determine what accommodations, if any, would appropriately address the child's needs. Such determinations are made pursuant to the procedures available under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Both federal and state statutes are clear in their language — that all students enrolled in public schools must take the yearly state assessments. Until such legislation changes, each school district must comply with federal and state mandates.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Parks, Deputy Superintendent, at (203) 255-8372.

Sincerely,

David G. Title

DGT/mb

SBAC English May 20, 21, 22

Testing Slot 1 7:30 – 9:53

May 20	May 21	May 22
Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
English I	English I	English II
Fitts HRs	Townsend HRs	Pequot HRs
Periods 2,1,4	Periods 1,2,4	Periods 2,1,4

Testing Slot 2 10:25 – 12:32

English I	English II	English II
Pequot Hrs	Fitts HRs	Townsend HRs
Periods 7,8,5	Periods 6,5,7	Periods 8,7,5

SBAC Math May 27, 28, 29

Testing Slot 1 7:30 – 9:53

May 27	May 28	May 29
Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
Math I	Math I	Math II
Fitts HRs	Townsend HRs	Pequot HRs
Per. 1,2,4	Per. 2,1,4	Per.1,2,4

Testing Slot 2 10:25 – 12:32

May 27	May 28	May 29
Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
Math I	Math II	Math II
Pequot HRs	Fitts HRs	Townsend HRs
Per. 7,8,5	Per. 6,5,7	Per. 8,7,5

N.B. No activity period or advisory on May 20 or 27

2014 Schedule for SBAC Testing Days -			
NOTICE SWAP of Homeroom and Timeblock 4			
Timeblock:	Actual time:		
TB 1	7:30 – 8:15	<u>Morning Session</u>	
TB 2	8:20 – 9:04	Testing Time: 7:30 – 9:53	
TB 4	9:09 – 9:53	Testing House reports directly to assigned	
HR	9:58- 10:05	computer lab at 7:30	
TB 5	10:10-10:54	<u>Afternoon 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		