

*Mr. Michael Cummings*

Director of  
Elementary Education



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Dear Members of the Fairfield Elementary Schools Community,

The Fairfield Public Schools will join millions of students across the United States in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Test this spring. SBAC has replaced the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) for these content areas. Students who had previously taken the CMT Skills Checklist will now take the SBAC aligned, Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA).

For our schools, all students in grades 3-8 will participate in the testing in both mathematics and English language arts/literacy. Please note, students in grades 5, 8 and 10 will also take the CMT and CAPT Science test.

Our elementary schools plan to administer the test according to the following schedule:

- Grade 5 Science CMT – March 22
- Grade 3 ELA and Math – March 28 to April 8
- Grade 4 ELA and Math – April 18 to April 29
- Grade 5 ELA and math – May 2 to May 13

The tests are not timed however; it will take approximately 5 to 6 total hours to complete both content areas of English Language Arts and Math and an additional hour for CMT Science. The overall time for the test has been reduced this year due to the removal of the English Language Arts performance task. Testing will be administered on a computer and scheduled over multiple sessions of about 60 minutes each. It is worth noting that the assessment is adaptive and therefore students may complete the assessment in shorter intervals. Each school will develop its own testing schedule.

To comply with federal and state statute, participation in the test is required. Please note that Smarter Balanced will adhere to all federal and state privacy laws, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Please visit the Smarter Balanced website at [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) for more information. **You can also visit <http://.ct.portal.airast.org/students-and-families> to learn about the tests themselves.** If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,  
Mike Cummings

Director of Elementary Education