



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho Statewide Assessment Points of Emphasis Revised October 25, 2013

Smarter Balanced, ISAT/ISAT-alt, and NCSC

- All students in grades 3 -11 (except 11th graders who have not yet passed the Grade 10 ISAT and those students eligible to take the ISAT Alt), will take the Smarter Balanced Field Test in both math and English language arts this spring, instead of the ISAT in math, reading, and language usage. To be clear: This means that all 9th and 10th graders will take the Smarter Balanced Field Test in math and English language arts and will not take the ISAT in math, reading and language usage this spring.
- Because the ISAT will not be available for 10th graders this spring, 10th graders who did not pass the Grade 10 ISAT in 9th grade should be placed on an alternate path to graduation. Current 10th graders will never have to pass the SBAC in order to graduate. Current 9th graders will have to pass the SBAC when they are in 11th grade (Spring 2016) in order to graduate. Districts can contact Allison McClintick (allison.mcclintick@osbe.idaho.gov) at the State Board of Education for more information on alternate graduation plans.
- The Smarter Balanced Field Test window is currently set for April 1 – May 16. Districts should contact Dr. TJ Bliss (tjbliss@sde.idaho.gov) immediately if this window is an issue for them.
 - Please note: The testing window for the first operational administration of the Smarter Balanced end-of-year test in 2015 has not yet been determined and will not necessarily match the field test window. The SDE will be engaging districts around the state after the field test to determine the optimal testing window for Idaho going forward.
- No student scores will be available from the Smarter Balanced Field Test. The purpose of the Field Test is to give all Idaho students and schools a low-stakes experience with the new assessment system, “test the test,” explore logistics, and set cut-scores. We encourage districts to help parents and students understand that no individual student reports will be available from the Smarter Balanced Field Test at the end of this school year. No data will be available at the state, district, or school levels either.
- Because no assessment data will be available, 2013-2014 school accountability determinations will be held over from the 2012-2013 school year. This means that schools will receive the same Star Ratings this year as they received last year.
 - Please note: The 95% participation rule for statewide assessments will not be waived by the U.S. Department of Education. If a school does not meet the 95% participation rate on statewide assessments (including the Smarter Balanced Field Test), the school’s Star Rating will be penalized this school year, as per Idaho’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver.
- We encourage districts to begin planning now to administer the SBAC Field Test. One initial step districts can take today is to complete SBAC’s Technology Readiness Tool. The tool is made up of three categories: 1) Devices, 2) Students, and 3) Network. In addition, the tool can also help conduct calculations regarding rooms, proctors, and other critical information. Please visit www.techreadiness.net to complete the tech readiness report



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as soon as possible. Districts may contact Alex MacDonald (amacdonald@sde.idaho.gov) with any questions about tech readiness.

- Students eligible to take an alternate assessment will take either the ISAT Alt or the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternate Assessment Pilot Test in math, reading, or language usage, instead of the Smarter Balanced Field Test this year. Districts can contact Toni Wheeler (tcwheeler@sde.idaho.gov) for more information on the NCSC Pilot Test.
- Students in Grades 5, 7, and 10 will continue to be required to take the Science ISAT or Science ISAT Alt this spring, as usual. Contact Angela Hemingway (ahemingway@sde.idaho.gov) for more information on Smarter Balanced and science assessment.

Formative Assessment

- Smarter Balanced emphasizes a balanced assessment system that focuses on formative, interim and summative assessment. Often when people talk or ask about Smarter Balanced they are referring to and focusing on the summative assessment. The SDE challenges people to think equally as much about formative and interim assessment as preparation for a culminating year-end assessment event. Districts may contact Nancy Thomas Price (nthomasprice@sde.idaho.gov) for information about PD opportunities in assessment literacy and formative assessment.

College Entrance Exams

- The SAT School Day is set for April 16, 2014. The SAT Make-up Day has been pushed back one week to April 30, 2014, to accommodate student counseling. The ACCUPLACER Testing Window is March 24 through May 2, 2014. Districts may contact Nichole Hall (nhall@sde.idaho.gov) for more information on College Entrance Exams.

English Language Proficiency Exams

- Idaho has adopted new ELP standards which are aligned to the Idaho Core Standards. With this standards adoption, Idaho will be transitioning to the online ACCESS 2.0 Test in 2016. This test is aligned to the newly adopted ELP standards. Field testing of ACCESS 2.0 will be conducted next school year. This year, districts should continue to use IELA, the ELL Placement Tests, and all other IELA resources, as usual. Districts may contact Nichole Hall (nhall@sde.idaho.gov) for more information about the new ELP assessments.