

Smarter Balanced Field Test Parent and Guardian Notification Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you may already know, Innovations Academy, along with thousands of schools across California, are participating in a field test of a modern assessment system known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress – or CAASPP. The CAASPP/Smarter Balance tests are computer-based testing students in English Language Arts and Math and they are replacing the STAR program. The exception to this is that the Science CST and CMA will be administered, during the testing window, to students in grades 5 and 8.

The Smarter Balanced/CAASPP tests are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English and math, which California adopted in 2010 to describe what knowledge and skills students need to be well prepared for college and careers, no matter where they come from or where they live.

Part of the goal of the field test this year is to determine how well individual questions allow students to demonstrate what they know and still need to learn. We are also taking this opportunity to see how well our technical capabilities meet the demands of computer-based assessments and to see what resources our teachers and school may yet need.

Finally and importantly, this year also gives your student an opportunity to try out the new system without consequences. All of this combined means that we will not be capturing scores this year. Instead, we will use what we learn from this field test to help ensure a successful full launch of the system in the 2014-15 school year.

Our next step in this transition is to administer the field test to students in **grades 3-8** from **April 14, 2014-May 1, 2014**. If you want to see what types of questions students will be asked or how the test will be presented, there is a practice test available online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

If you would like more information, please visit the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact Donna at 858-271-1414.

Sincerely,
Christine Kuglen
Director