



January 9, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This spring Bolton students will participate in the required Connecticut summative assessment system. These assessments include the Smarter Balanced assessments (SBAC) in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics for Grades 3 through 8 and 11. Students are also assessed on CMT/CAPT Science in Grades 5, 8 and 10.

This is the first operational year of SBAC, which measures real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. These required assessments will provide students, parents, and teachers with insight into college and career readiness early enough to address issues and provide extra support where needed. The National PTA defines *college and career readiness* as, "The level of preparation a student needs to enroll and succeed - without remediation - in a credit-bearing course at a post-secondary institution that offers a baccalaureate degree or in a high-quality certificate program that enables students to enter a career pathway with potential future advancement." SBAC is designed to provide accurate measures of achievement and growth for all students; thus allowing all students to perform to their potential.

### **Some Points to Remember about SBAC**

- ***This is a new scoring system.*** SBAC scores cannot be directly compared to scores from the retired state assessments (CMT and CAPT).
- ***Initial scores will likely be lower.*** The Connecticut Core Standards (also known as Common Core Standards) are more rigorous. Teaching and learning is resetting to the new standards. A dip should not necessarily be interpreted as a decline in student learning or in educator performance. It is expected that a short-term decline should improve as teachers and students become more familiar with the standards and better equipped to meet the challenges they present.

### **Links to Resources about SBAC**

- [National PTA Parent's Guide to New Assessments](#)
- [CT State Department of Education SBAC Website](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#)

### **General Testing Windows**

**Science CMT & CAPT grades 5, 8 & 11** - March 2 - 22

**BCS SBAC** - April 21 - May 22

**BHS SBAC** - April 27 - May 15

As we get closer to testing dates, you can expect communications from my office as well as from the building principals with more specific information. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [sarah.malinoski@boltonct.org](mailto:sarah.malinoski@boltonct.org).

Sincerely,

*Sarah V. Malinoski*

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