



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Questions that we received from parents at the Common Core Parent Workshops

1. What assessments will be given to all students?

Answer: In the 2013 – 2014 school year all students in grades 3-8 and in grade 11 will be given the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Test, which is being considered a field test. This test will contain both math and English questions. The school, district, and parents will not receive any scores for this test, as the state is field-testing questions. 11th grade students will also take the Early Assessment Placement (EAP) test, which is a placement test for students who will be attending California State Universities after high school. Students in grades 5, 8 and 10 will also take the California State Test (CST) in science. In 2014 – 2015, students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will take the SBAC test in both math and English. This will be our baseline year as this will be the first year students will receive scores.

2. If Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is driven by the “states”, is federal funding still accessible to “states”?

Answer: The state of California adopted the CCSS and because this was a state decision, no federal funding is tied to the CCSS. Title 1, 2 and 3 funds will continue to be allocated in the same manner as they have been allocated in the past.

3. How are all the students going to be able to take tests online?

Answer: Each school was given a monetary allotment to purchase additional technology that will enable all students to take the SBAC online. Each school site has developed a schedule that will allow each student to have access to take the SBAC test.

4. Will I-Pads, computers or other devices be used to take the SBAC test?

Answer: A combination of devices will be used to take the SBAC test. A variety of technology has been purchased at each site depending on the sites technology needs. Some of the technology that has been purchased by schools includes computers to complete or upgrade computer labs, laptops, and I-Pads. All of these computers or devices will be utilized in the SBAC testing.

5. Does the district have the bandwidth to support students at each school taking online assessments at the same time?

Answer: The district has taken a proactive approach in placing a sufficient number of wireless antennas at each school site to ensure that the internal network will be able to handle the bandwidth load that will be placed on the network during testing. The computer information department has done thorough testing of the network and will be leading a district wide test of all 13 schools simultaneously to test the network to ensure that the network will be ready for the SBAC test.

6. There will be a greater emphasis on having students write more and explain their answers on the SBAC assessment. Is there a plan to teach keyboarding skills so that the students have time to express their ideas on the computerized assessments?
Answer: Bonita Unified School District recognizes the value of having keyboarding skills; however, students are learning at a very early age how to maneuver very well around a keyboard. The single most important factor is students having time using devices that allow them to gain speed and accuracy. As a result, Bonita USD will work to increase the amount of time students have exposure to working with technology in order to gain these skills.

7. How do you help student's transition into CCSS where there are weaknesses in certain concepts in skills and how do you plan to help them learn, catch up and move forward?
Answer: While there is a shift from the California State Standards to the Common Core State Standards, our process of identifying areas of concern in academic areas will remain the same. We will continue to identify those areas of need early and continue to provide academic interventions to students to help bring them up to grade level.

8. In the next couple of years when there will be no Academic Performance Index (API), what will the district use as metrics to measure student progress?
Answer: Bonita Unified School District will use various assessments to measure student progress. These assessments include, but are not limited to the following; DIBELS, STAR Reading, STAR Math, California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), number of students meeting A-G requirements and local common assessments.