Success for Stafford on the 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment and Science Tests

In 2016, the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), implemented via a web based platform, was administered for the **second** time to all students in Connecticut**.** Students in grades 3 through 8 participated in the SBA in 2016.

The 2015 and 2016 SBA results are considered "baseline" years. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is encouraging districts not to make any comparisons to the former CMT and CAPT results. Any comparison is unreliable because different standards are assessed. As well, the SDE is cautioning districts not to draw too many conclusions when analyzing their data. Two year's test results are insufficient to cause dramatic shifts in programming and instruction. The results should be viewed as a new baseline for achievement.

The annual Science Assessment was administered in March, 2016. Students in grades 5 and 8 took the CMT Science Assessment. Students in grade 11 participated in the CAPT Science Assessment. By Federal law, each state needs to identify a grade in elementary, middle, and high school to assess science understanding based upon state and/or national science standards. Connecticut assesses students in grades 5, 8, and 10.

It is anticipated that individual student reports for Science and Smarter Balanced Assessments will be mailed to parents in mid-October.

Generally, the 2016 Smarter Balanced results are favorable when compared to DRG and State averages. The Science assessment results (grades 5, 8, and 10 only) are also favorably compared with previous years. Some impressive highlights include:

Science Assessments:
★ Grade 10 students are ranked #1 in DRG F for both percentage at mastery and proficient and scored at the **highest ever** for percent at mastery (2008 was the previous best ever)
★ For the **10th consecutive year**, grade 8 outperformed both the DRG F and State average and maintained historically consistent comparable rankings in DRG F
★ In grade 5, students **improved by 9.5%** for percentage at mastery

Smarter Balanced Assessments:

Math

★ Outperformed the State and DRG F averages in **all grades**

★ Grade 3, **for the second year in a row**, scored at the highest proficient percentage for Stafford

★ Grade 7 outperformed the DRG F and State average by more than 10%

English Language Arts/Literacy

★ Outperformed or equaled the State and DRG F averages **in all grades**

★ In grade 7 **(1st in DRG F)** and grade 8 **(2nd)** achieved over 70% proficient results

★ Maintained general trend of students achieving **higher results as they progress** through grades 3 to 8

A more detailed presentation of Stafford's Smarter Balanced and Science assessment results is provided here (make live link).http://www.stafford.k12.ct.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=27998275