



# PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE LEARNING AND SUCCESS FOR EACH STUDENT BY PROVIDING A QUALITY EDUCATION.

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: What do parents need to know?

Paramount Unified School District

Parent Presentation, Grades 3-5

2014-15

# New Common Core Standards and Assessments

- California joined with 42 states to implement common standards for teaching and learning.
- New standards, new curriculum, new ways of evaluating progress began last year.
- All students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the online Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) for Mathematics and English Language Arts this year.

What has changed?

# How is the new SBAC Test different?

CST Test Question	SBAC Test Question
<p data-bbox="131 385 821 499">How many right angles are in a rectangle?</p> <ul data-bbox="131 578 231 813" style="list-style-type: none"><li>A 1</li><li>B 2</li><li>C 3</li><li>D 4</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="869 385 1758 621">A rectangle is 6 feet long and has a perimeter of 20 feet. What is the width of this rectangle? Explain how you solved this problem.</p> <div data-bbox="931 759 1738 1113" style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 10px;"><p data-bbox="946 821 1690 1035"><i>The student types in their response here. There are <u>two</u> questions the student must answer correctly in this SBAC item.</i></p></div>

# SBAC Scores Cannot be Compared to CST

CST

Knowledge and Skills Based



SBAC

Increased rigor requiring complex thinking

Single answer bubble-in responses



Open ended question requiring written responses.

**Five** Scoring Levels  
(Far Below Basic, Below Basic, Basic, Proficient Advanced)



**Four** scoring levels

# Scores Will Look Different

- It is likely that fewer students will score at the higher achievement levels the first few years.
- A decline in test scores doesn't mean students are learning less. These results are the beginning of how we measure progress for the new standards.
- Achievement levels do not equate directly to grade level performance.

# How do I know if my child is on track?

State tests are only one measure to review your child's performance. The following are equally important for showing what students learn:

- Progress Reports and Report Cards
- PUSD Unit Assessments in Language Arts and Math
- Daily Class Assignments

# How is PUSD Preparing Students for the Content and Rigor of the SBAC?

- Language Arts and math lessons and assessments have been updated to reflect the Common Core Standards.
- New math textbooks in grades K through high school include the new standards.
- Students are required to write in all classes, including math.
- Assessments in Language Arts and Mathematics now include four question types: multiple choice, short response, extended response, performance task.



# How is PUSD Preparing Students for the Technology Skills on the SBAC?

- New computer labs are at every school. Labs are staffed with Technology Assistants who teach students computer skills they will need for the SBAC test.
- Additional laptops will be distributed during each school's testing period.
- Schools have technology lessons and software programs that teach the skills students need.

# Parents Play a Role in Student Success

- Get educated about the new test.
- Monitor your child's achievement throughout the school year.
- Encourage your student to use technology for writing and researching information.
- Follow the six steps to success before, during and after testing (see parent handout).

# What Happens Next?

Testing at schools - April 20 through May 22  
Score reports received - Fall 2015



# Web Resources for Parents

- [cde.ca.gov](http://cde.ca.gov)
- [achievethecore.org](http://achievethecore.org)
- [smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/](http://smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/)
- <http://www.pta.org/assessments>