



STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell
Commissioner Designate 

DATE: April 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Progress Report

In January 2014, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) received approval from the United States Department of Education (USED) to allow districts the flexibility to choose to administer the Smarter Balanced Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) field tests in 2013-2014 in lieu of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) – CSDE’s legacy assessments. Nearly 90 percent of districts participated in the field test, testing more than 250,000 students.

The Smarter Balanced field test was, in effect, a “test of the test.” As such, it was not possible to determine student-level scores. Similarly, there are no school or district level performance reports available.

The attached report contains the high-level information that can be drawn from the Smarter Balanced Field Test administration. Based on an analysis of a scientific sample, Smarter Balanced was able to release some national-level estimates regarding achievement level attainment. The CSDE analyzed Connecticut’s item-level student responses for machine-scored items in an effort to provide high-level summary information specific to the Connecticut administration.

If you have any questions, please contact Interim Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan at (860) 713-6888.

Attachment (1)