



Balanced Education

San Joaquin County Office, Educational Services

February 2015 Issue

Welcome...

Our continued planning and preparation is helping to realize the goal of student success in college and careers. We are approaching the first statewide operational assessment this spring and this year we will have student scores. It's important to remember that this will establish a new baseline for student progress and that the computer-based assessments are too different from the old tests to make comparisons. Communication is the key to setting expectations!

Jane Steinkamp

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Digital Library Support

To support and encourage the use of the Digital Library, the California Department of Education (CDE) released several resources about the Digital Library, including a Digital Library Fact Sheet, and a Digital Library Overview and Sample Resources PowerPoint that provides a tour of the Digital Library and shows some sample resources. These documents are available on the [CDE Digital Library Web page](#). Educational Testing Service is now offering a Help Desk for the Digital Library. New staff has been hired and trained to help answer questions and to give support. The Help Desk can be reached by phone at 855-631-1510 or by e-mail at caltac@ets.org.

Communications Toolkit

Educators are not only teaching students in classrooms, but also are educating the larger community about how learning is changing in the 21st century. Silicon Valley Community Foundation's [Embrace the Core Web site](#) and [Communications Toolkit](#) are designed to help educators communicate with parents about California's Common Core State Standards. Teachers, principals, district leaders, after-school program administrators, and anyone else who regularly fields questions from parents can use the posters, sample parent letters, talking points, and various other resources to facilitate those conversations.

Interim Assessments

The CDE recently announced the much-anticipated release of the interim comprehensive assessments (ICAs), select interim assessment blocks (IABs), and the Interim Handscoring Module. Interim assessment student reports will be available in late February. Learn about these new resources by viewing the archived Webcasts, Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (Parts I and II) on the [CAASPP Training Web page](#).



Upcoming Workshops

Digital Star Lab & Astronomy Training. February 21. Register by contacting the Science and STEM office at 209-468-4880 or by e-mail at akennedy@sjcoe.net.

Autism 5-Point Scale & Other Self-Regulation Strategies. February 24. Register at <http://inside.sjcoe.org/attachments/7492-24-15.pdf>.

San Joaquin County Office of Education
James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

ELA/ELD Framework Overview for K-5 Administrators. March 10. Register at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=vlphqbdab&zoei dk=a07e9y0hxru89a678cd>.