



Balanced Education

San Joaquin County Office, Educational Services

May 2015 Issue

Welcome...

Now that summative assessments are well underway, we will soon be able to view and analyze preliminary student scores and continue to move toward providing effective classroom learning to help our students achieve success.

Jane Steinkamp

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

SBAC Communication Tools

The state has made available tools developed by Smarter Balanced to help schools and districts develop communications for parents and the public as they move forward with the new assessment system and current test administration. These resources are free, and schools and districts are encouraged to modify any of the communication samples to meet their specific needs. The following resources are available and can be found on the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Communication Tools Web page:

- *Communication Tips* compiled from a variety of online resources help communicate about Common Core implementation and assessment.
- *Connecting Learning to Life* explains changes in learning and how it is measured.
- *How to Edit Parent Handout* contains instructions that explain how to customize tools and brochures for your own school or district.
- *New Future, New Test with Talking Points* is a PowerPoint presentation with presenter notes that can be used to communicate about the new assessments.
- *Principal's Newsletter* includes samples of newsletters that can be sent to parents explaining the new Smarter Balanced Assessment system.
- *April to June 2015 Communication Timeline* provides suggestions about when specific items should be communicated to parents.
- *Role Play Cards with Instructions* provides flashcards with scenarios and solutions related to the new assessments that can be used during workshops and staff meetings.

CAASPP Guides and Workshops

Sample California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) individual score reports are now available on the CDE CAASPP System Web page under the CAASPP Info tab. The state is developing a guide and instructional video to help parents and teachers understand how to interpret scores on the reports. The guide and video are expected to be made available this coming June. Also, Educational Testing Systems and the state will provide a CAASPP Post-test Workshop webcast on May 20, 2015. In-person workshops will be provided throughout the state in the near future (dates and times to be announced).

Digital Library Forums

The Digital Library Spotlight Forum Series is intended to connect state and district leaders and teachers across Smarter Balanced member states to discuss timely topics facilitated by national experts and innovative practitioners. More information about the series is available on the CDE Digital Library Web page. On May 4-8, 2015, the authors of the Cognitively Based Assessment of, for, and as Learning (CBAL) modules are featured. If you are unable to attend, links to Webinar recordings are available through the Digital Library, which requires viewers to have a Digital Library login. If you need to obtain login, your CAASPP coordinator can contact the Digital Library Help Desk by phone at 855-631-1510.

Upcoming Workshops

Conceptual Flow to 3-D Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Lessons (K-12). May 12. Register at <http://www.sjcoescience.org>.

California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Administration and Scoring Workshop. May 15. Information available at <http://www.sjcoe.org/calendarDetails.aspx?ID=3252>.

Collaborative Book Study. May 21. Information available at <http://www.sjcoe.org/calendarDetails.aspx?ID=2890>.

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

