

Preliminary Synopsis of Orange SBA Results 2014-2015

We owe it to our students to make sure that they receive an education that successfully prepares them to thrive in a global economy and civic life. Connecticut raised the bar and issued a new instructional roadmap, the Connecticut Core Standards, which sets learning expectations for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level so that by the time they graduate from high school, they are ready to be successful in college and the workplace.

New standards require a new state test to measure progress toward these new learning goals. The Smarter Balanced assessments replaced our old state tests, the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), in English language arts and math. Orange students in grades 3 – 6 completed the Smarter Balanced assessments in the spring of 2015. These assessments are administered on computers and are designed to measure critical thinking and problem solving through reading comprehension, writing and math questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content – not just bubble in a correct answer. Students in grade 5 were also administered the Science CMT which assesses their knowledge in the areas of physical, earth and life sciences as well as their scientific inquiry and content knowledge.

Preliminary analysis of the Smarter Balanced assessment results indicate that the Orange Elementary Schools scored well above the State average. One report lists each of the 196 school districts giving an average district score on English Language Arts and Math. As has been the District's trend over a number of years, students' scores tend to be on the lower end of the range in Grades 3 and 4 and then increase significantly by Grades 5 and 6 resulting in a strong district average score for Orange. 79.6% of the Orange students either met or exceeded achievement levels ranking 16th out of 196 school districts in ELA. Scores ranged from 65 – 92% across the schools and grade levels. 65.1% of the Orange students either met or exceeded achievement levels ranking 17th out of 196 districts in Mathematics. Scores in this subject area ranged from 55 – 82% across the schools and grade levels. On the Science CMT, 76.7% of our Grade 5 students scored At or Above Goal with 97.4% scoring At or Above Proficiency. A more detailed report by school will be presented at the next Board of Education Meeting.