



ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
637 Orange Center Road | Orange, CT 06477

Evelyn Russo, Ph. D.  
Director of Curriculum and Personnel  
[erusso@orange-ed.org](mailto:erusso@orange-ed.org)  
Phone: 203-891-8020 x:1202  
Fax: 203-891-8025

March 6, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you of the upcoming Connecticut Assessments for students in grades 3-8 and grade 11. Children in the Orange Public Schools who are enrolled in grade 5 will participate in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment. Students in grades 3- 6 will also participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). Please note that students who are eligible will be permitted to engage in Alternative Assessments. This decision is made by the child's Planning and Placement Team. If you have questions regarding this, please contact your child's special education teacher.

Our schools plan to administer the Connecticut Assessments in April and May. Your child's principal will share a separate letter that will inform you of the specific school testing schedule within this State testing window.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) designed the SBA with the intention of measuring the college and career readiness levels of students. This information contributes to improved teaching and learning compared to the Connecticut Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. It is important for you to be aware that regular instruction will continue around the testing schedule. Below is an overview of information about the test administration:

- The tests are not timed, however, it will take a total of approximately 4 hours to complete testing.
- Testing will be scheduled over multiple sessions of about 60 minutes but may be scheduled in shorter or longer sessions as appropriate for the students in your school.
- Please visit the Smarter Balanced [website](#) for more information and resources. If you have any questions regarding this assessment, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

*Evelyn Russo Ph.D.*

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Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Personnel  
Orange Public Schools