



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Re: Changes to State testing

As you may be aware, the California Legislature recently passed Assembly Bill 484 (AB 484) that suspends **most** California Standards Tests (CST) and California Modified Assessments (CMA) this spring. Instead it allows districts to utilize the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) to field test the assessments that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

AB 484 suspends the math, English, social studies and end of course CSTs. However, students **will** take the following assessments this year:

- Grades 5, 8 and 10 Life Science CST and CMA science
- Grade 11 EAP (Early Assessment Program - optional)
- Grade 10 CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam)
- Grades 2-11 CAPA (California Alternative Performance Assessment – Special Education as required)
- Grades 3-8 and 11 will field test SBAC math or English

AB 484 requires students to participate in the SBAC field test which will be given in grades 3-8 and grade 11. Students will take either the SBAC math or SBAC English tests on a computer during the spring of 2014. Individual scores will not be published, but the results of their tests will help determine the accuracy and reliability of the individual test questions before the full scale test is administered in the spring of 2015. With the signing of AB 484, this new legislation also freezes the Academic Performance Indexes (API) at the 2013 level for all schools for the next two years.

With AB 484 being signed into law, teachers can focus their time on planning common core lessons and developing assessments to accurately gauge the level of achievement of their students. Students will be able to practice the skills they need for the new assessment, such as thinking critically, analyzing non-fiction text, understanding math at a conceptual level, solving problems using more than one theory and using technology differently than they have in the past.

For additional information regarding Common Core, please visit the Bonita Unified School District website at <http://do.bonita.k12.ca.us>. We will continue to keep all of our families updated with information on developments of Common Core and the Smarter Balanced Assessment as we leap forward in student learning.

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