



# PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 27, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is one of many in the country that will participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test this spring. Schools in 24 states will participate in the field test starting this March.

For our district, all students in grades 3-8 participate in the Field Test in both mathematics and English language arts/literacy. Students will not participate in the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for these content areas. Please note that students in Grade 5 and 8 are required to take the CMT Science test. Students assessed with the CMT Skills Checklist will not participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test, but will continue to be assessed with the CMT Skills Checklist.

The tests are not timed; however, it will take approximately 3 to 4 hours to complete each content area test. Testing may be scheduled over multiple sessions of about 45 minutes each, but may be scheduled in shorter or longer sessions as appropriate for the students in the school.

To comply with federal and state statute, participation in the field test is required. Please note that Smarter Balanced will adhere to all federal and state privacy laws, including but not limited to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Field Test is an opportunity to “test the test.” Information from the Field Test will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of test questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of the test administration and training materials.

This is an exciting opportunity for our school. Students will be able to try out new, online testing software and new question types that will be similar to future Smarter Balanced assessments. By participating in the Field Test, your child will be influencing the development of the Smarter Balanced assessments that will be Connecticut’s statewide assessment beginning in the 2014 – 2015 school year. Every student response is a valuable piece of information that will be used to ensure that the new assessments are valid, reliable, and fair for all students.

Please visit the Smarter Balanced website at [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) for more information. If you have any questions regarding your child’s participation, please contact your child’s principal.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. DiPietro  
Superintendent of Schools