Understanding your Student’s Assessment Scores

- Shows the student’s overall achievement level and how it relates to being on track for career and college readiness.
- Compares the student’s score to the average scale score for the school, district, and the state.
- Shows where the student’s score falls within the broad achievement level.
- Shows the student’s strengths and challenges on the component skills that make up ELA or Mathematics.
A Parent’s Guide to the 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessments
Individual Student Reports

A new kind of test for students and a new kind of report for parents:
The Smarter Balanced Assessments are designed to help parents and educators determine if students are on track to be ready for college or the workforce by the time they graduate from high school. If that seems premature for students in the elementary grades, keep in mind that students begin learning the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics skills they will need to be successful as adults from the day they start school. Be assured that the purpose of the tests is not to sort or label students into those who can and can’t go to college. The real purpose is to help identify problems or needs early enough to help students stay on track.

The new ELA and Mathematics Assessments are very different than any Vermont students have taken in the past. The questions and tasks are delivered to students almost entirely by computers using a new technology called Computer Adaptive Testing. They also include performance tasks that challenge students to use critical thinking skills, along with their factual knowledge, to solve authentic and engaging problems. Finally, the assessments provide a variety of embedded accessibility tools that can improve the assessment experience for all students, but that are particularly helpful for students with special assessment needs.

Because the new assessments are different than tests students took in the past, the Individual Student Reports are also different and may present parents with interpretation challenges. This Parent Guide provides information that may help navigate the parts of the report that are complex and unfamiliar. It’s important to note that this is only one measure of a student’s achievement, and may not address all the key questions that need to be answered. Parents should consult with teachers for help interpreting the Smarter Balanced results, and to see what other useful information may be available.