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Vermont 2015-16 Assessment Results Released

BARRE – Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe announced today statewide results from the 2015-16 Smarter Balanced Assessments, a set of computer adaptive English language arts and mathematics tests developed by a national consortium currently made up of 15 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Bureau of Indian Education. This was the second year Vermont students participated in the Smarter Balanced program.

These tests, which were administered this spring to students in grades three through eight and grade 11, provide results aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Over time, the results will provide teachers and parents with an increasingly reliable and accurate snapshot of how their children are performing in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and will offer community members throughout the state a common measure for evaluating the success of schools, both locally and statewide.

Vermont’s statewide results:

2016 Smarter Balanced Math Results	Total Proficient and Above	Scale Score		2016 Smarter Balanced English Language Arts Results	Total Proficient and Above	Scale Score	
		Proficient Score	State Average			Proficient Score	State Average
Grade 3	55.84%	2436	2442	Grade 3	53.84%	2432	2438
Grade 4	49.89%	2485	2482	Grade 4	53.76%	2473	2477
Grade 5	43.31%	2528	2509	Grade 5	58.16%	2502	2515
Grade 6	40.94%	2552	2522	Grade 6	56.20%	2531	2539
Grade 7	46.04%	2567	2548	Grade 7	57.57%	2552	2562
Grade 8	43.87%	2586	2564	Grade 8	58.52%	2567	2580
Grade 11	37.76%	2628	2581	Grade 11	57.22%	2583	2598

“These scores are one measure by which we and our schools can assess the impact of our shared efforts to help students learn better,” Secretary Holcombe said. “The proficiency thresholds are intentionally ambitious and give us a baseline to track our progress moving forward. Our children from more prosperous families continue to rank near the top nationally. Our most vulnerable youth- those living in poverty, with disabilities, from marginalized populations and who speak English as a second language (see chart at end) - continue to have test scores that are on average lower than our general population. Although we hesitate to draw major conclusions from only one measure, we know that literacy and numeracy are first steps to improved life outcomes for all students. Children can’t thrive independently in life beyond school if they can’t read, write and

use mathematics. These results reinforce our commitment to finding strategies that will help us eliminate these gaps in achievement. If we raise the performance of our lower performing students, more students will graduate with the strong skills they need to create, innovate and power our Vermont businesses and economy into the future. “

Although this is the second year the Smarter Balanced Assessments have been administered in Vermont, the Agency of Education is encouraging schools to consider this year’s results as the baseline for determining progress over time.

“When we administered the Smarter Balanced tests for the first time last year, Vermont’s students and teachers had very little experience with taking tests on computer, “ said Michael Hock, Agency of Education Test Director. “For that reason we want to treat the 2014-15 administration as a pilot test, and use those results with considerable caution.”

The test scores released today establish a baseline aligned with the Common Core standards, and as such, should not be compared to previous statewide test scores including the 2014-15 Smarter Balanced scores.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments, which challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills in areas such as critical thinking, analytical writing and problem solving, are computer adaptive tests, administered online. Computer adaptive tests adjust the difficulty of the test question based on how a test taker responds to each successive question. If a student answers incorrectly, for example, the computer delivers a slightly easier question. If the student answers correctly, the next question is a bit harder. This process continues until the best possible prediction of a student’s ability is determined. This means very few children take a test that feels too hard or too easy. It also means the test can provide a more precise measure of what students can and cannot do.

Individual school data will be released at a press conference during the week of September 19, 2016. The Agency has compiled several tools to help the public interpret these results. For more information visit the [AOE website](#).

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Subject	Grade	All Students	Race/Ethnicity						Gender		Other Characteristics			
			American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Female	Male	FRL	Migrant	ELL	Special Ed
Percent Proficient and Above														
English Language Arts	3	54%	42%	61%	41%	50%	64%	54%	59%	49%	39%	9%	42%	14%
	4	54%	35%	65%	40%	47%	65%	54%	59%	48%	37%		18%	13%
	5	58%	50%	64%	37%	52%	57%	59%	66%	51%	42%		13%	14%
	6	56%	44%	63%	34%	60%	79%	57%	63%	50%	39%		6%	11%
	7	58%	47%	60%	41%	45%	45%	58%	66%	49%	39%		8%	9%
	8	59%	40%	67%	44%	68%	39%	59%	67%	50%	41%		12%	11%
	11	57%		60%	35%	54%		58%	65%	50%	38%			11%
Math	3	56%	45%	65%	35%	49%	64%	56%	56%	56%	41%	18%	48%	18%
	4	50%	29%	61%	32%	43%	71%	50%	49%	51%	32%		18%	14%
	5	43%	33%	49%	24%	38%	36%	44%	43%	43%	28%		14%	10%
	6	41%	32%	50%	18%	40%	74%	41%	41%	41%	25%		4%	5%
	7	46%	31%	51%	25%	43%	43%	47%	49%	44%	28%		8%	6%
	8	44%	24%	56%	23%	55%	33%	44%	46%	42%	26%		7%	4%
	11	38%		47%	16%	22%		38%	40%	36%	19%		5%	2%
Scale Score														
English Language Arts	3	2438	2415	2453	2407	2425	2453	2438	2449	2427	2406	2363	2410	2353
	4	2477	2432	2496	2445	2456	2504	2478	2490	2465	2441		2383	2385
	5	2515	2496	2528	2475	2510	2528	2517	2533	2499	2480		2406	2416
	6	2539	2526	2553	2495	2548	2571	2540	2556	2523	2502		2408	2431
	7	2562	2530	2577	2512	2548	2561	2563	2582	2543	2520		2437	2448
	8	2580	2535	2597	2545	2596	2549	2581	2600	2561	2541		2464	2465
	11	2598		2605	2546	2586		2600	2621	2576	2546			2465
Math	3	2442	2428	2459	2402	2427	2450	2442	2442	2442	2414	2377	2426	2354
	4	2482	2440	2498	2446	2464	2513	2483	2480	2485	2452		2411	2406
	5	2509	2487	2523	2465	2496	2500	2510	2510	2507	2477		2423	2421
	6	2522	2498	2545	2466	2520	2558	2523	2525	2519	2485		2382	2408
	7	2548	2512	2569	2487	2537	2551	2549	2555	2541	2506		2431	2424
	8	2564	2511	2598	2506	2569	2513	2565	2570	2557	2518		2421	2435
	11	2581		2597	2517	2551		2583	2589	2573	2520		2419	2427