

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13

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*Director of Curriculum,
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To: Regional School District 13 Parents and Guardians
From: Linda C. Berry, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Re: Connecticut State Department of Education Common Core Aligned Practice Assessment
Date: April 30, 2013

The Connecticut State Department of Education, at the request of and in service to districts, is providing a Common Core State Standards aligned "Practice Assessment" to help districts prepare for the new Smarter Balanced assessments. Beginning in the spring of 2014, these new tests will replace the Connecticut Mastery Test and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test.

This is an excellent opportunity for the state to support districts' Common Core implementation efforts and as such, Regional School District 13 has opted to administer this no-stakes, practice assessment to students in grades 3-8 and 11. The assessment has been developed by Measurement Incorporated and will be delivered only on the computer via the Measurement Incorporated Secure Testing System (MIST). The feedback from this assessment, which will report district results only, not individual student performance, will support our district's transition to the Common Core and to the next generation of assessments.

The testing will occur in the next two weeks, prior to May 17, 2013. All students will take only one test. Students in grades 3-5 will test in either reading or mathematics, while students in grades 6-8 will test in either writing or mathematics. Students in grade 11 will test in either writing or mathematics. No preparation is needed or required for the assessment. We believe this will give our students the opportunity to experience an assessment that measures the new standards and will be more like the new assessments.

For more information on the Common Core State Standards, please visit my Common Core page on the Regional School District 13 website <http://www.rsd13ct.org/Curriculum/Common-Core/index.html>.

Should you have any questions about the aligned practice tests please email me at lberry@rsd13.org or I can be reached at 860-349-7206.