



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECOND YEAR ISAT BY SMARTER BALANCED ADMINISTRATION WINDOW TO OPEN FOR DISTRICTS TODAY

(BOISE) – The ISAT by Smarter Balanced, also known as the SBAC assessment, will be administered statewide beginning today, March 28th. The test is required by the state and federal government and measures Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) along with critical thinking skills aligned to Idaho’s higher standards.

During the first administration of the ISAT by Smarter Balanced during the 2014-2015 school year, it was anticipated that fewer students would initially meet the grade level standards; however, based on the baseline data, Idaho students exceeded the projections that were established by the state’s NAEP scores. Results from the 2014-2015 assessment may be accessed at <http://apps.sde.idaho.gov/ReportCard/SchoolYear/21>.

“This will be the second opportunity for students across the state to take this assessment, and to become more familiar with the testing platform,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “The most important thing to remember moving into the ISAT testing window is that a true picture of student achievement will be determined over several years as we teach to improved standards in Idaho. I am a strong advocate of using multiple measures over time to assess student achievement, and this assessment can be one of those measures.”

Interim assessments available to school districts have been used widely over the past year. The interim assessments, which test standards by content category, are the most widely used by Idaho school districts and consist of shorter practice assessments which may be used throughout the school year as standards are being taught. Interim assessments utilize the same platform and item types as the full ISAT assessment, which is administered in the spring. Teachers use these interim assessments to adjust classroom instruction, as well as individualize instruction for students. Use of the interim, or practice assessments, has increased by 90% over the 2014-2015 school year.

Additional work has been done by the Idaho State Department of Education Assessment Division to refine the assessment administration and implementation process, correct technical issues, and streamline the scoring process, which was delayed during the first year’s assessment administration.

For additional information about the opening of the 2015-2016 ISAT assessment window, please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov. Additional information about the ISAT by Smarter Balanced may be accessed at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/isat-cas/>.

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