

March 12, 2014

Greetings Persons Concerned with SBAC Testing in CT Schools-

I am writing to briefly express a few of my concerns on the SBAC testing process in Connecticut:

One-I believe that the way this test is constructed places too high an emphasis on word processing skills- not a student's ability to construct and support an argument. The ELA Performance task requires the students to word process an essay, and I think that students who come from homes where computer technology is not available are distinctly at a disadvantage

Two-I do not believe that districts and teachers have had sufficient time to retool curriculum and practices to adequately prepare students for these tests.

Three-I believe that the testing consortium did not provide ample materials ahead of the test to help prepare students. The SBAC Consortium promised diagnostic tasks and activities last year, and again this fall, yet these were not made available to help prepare students.

In conclusion- I would ask that our state legislators do the following, take the practice tests and consider their impact on our students. Have an honest discussion whether this test truly tests the standards, or prepares students for their future?

Sincerely,

Jalanne Metz
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