



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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March 30, 2016

Dear SCUSD Families:

Testing season has begun in California schools, giving students opportunities to show what they know and schools an opportunity to identify learning needs. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the online Smarter Balanced Assessments in math and English language arts. Students in grades 5, 8 and 10 will also take paper-and-pencil science tests.

These tests are tied to the new California Content Standards (known as Common Core State Standards) which are learning goals for students at every grade. The standards challenge students to think independently, use technology, solve tough problems, analyze information and construct well-researched arguments.

Please note that students that have a significant cognitive disability, as designated in their IEP (Individualized Education Program), are eligible to take alternative assessments. Contact your school for more information.

Your school will let you know when testing begins for your child. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and eats a healthy breakfast. And remember, the primary purpose of testing is to support learning.

Thank you,

José L. Banda  
Superintendent