



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Teaching and Learning  
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Dear Parents or Guardians:

We strive to ensure that your child—and all Vernon Public School students—receive an education that prepares them to thrive in a global economy and civic life. That's why Connecticut has adopted challenging academic standards including the [Connecticut Core Standards](#) in mathematics and language arts, as well as the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS). With a firm grounding in these subjects, by the time all students from Connecticut graduate from high school, they will be ready to succeed in college and the workplace. Our teachers and administrators are committed to working together to support students with great instruction and resources to meet these new expectations.

With these statewide learning goals, Connecticut needs ways to measure student progress. Assessments are like academic checkups; they help teachers and parents see where students are, compared to where they need to be. The results can reveal subject areas where a student is excelling and subject areas where a student needs extra help. The state requires assessments in the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics using the Smarter Balanced Assessment at the elementary and middle school levels, and in Grade 11 using the SAT, which can also be used as a college entrance exam. The state requires assessments in science as well, in Grades 5, 8, and 11, using the NGSS Assessment Field Test. The NGSS Assessment Field Test is necessary to evaluate new items aligned to the NGSS for use on future test forms. This new test is replacing the legacy science assessment. Please note that this year since the science test is a field test, there will be no district, school, or student results reported.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments and the NGSS Assessment Field Test are both administered on computers. These assessments are designed to measure skills in reading comprehension, writing, mathematics, and real-world science questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. In all of these statewide assessments, additional supports are available for students with special needs, as determined by an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

To find more resources specifically for parents and guardians, including ways to help your child with the new standards at home, please visit [CTCoreStandards.org/](http://CTCoreStandards.org/) or <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>. For more information about the statewide testing in Vernon Public Schools please visit [VernonPublicSchools.org](http://VernonPublicSchools.org).

Sincerely,

Jason D. Magao  
Director of Teaching and Learning