



**Voluntown
Elementary
School**

P.O. Box 129
195 Main Street
Voluntown, CT 06384-1821
860/376-2325
Fax 860/376-6690

Friday, September 14, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Attached to this letter is your child's **Individual Student Report** from the 2018 administration of the Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students in Grades 3-8 were assessed using the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English/Language Arts and Mathematics this spring. Assessments are like academic checkups. They help teachers and parents to see where students are compared with 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 **Individual Student Report** contains an overall scale score and a performance level (Level 1-4) for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Each subject area also contains a performance indicator for each area of knowledge and skills measured within that subject. English Language Arts has three areas of knowledge and skills reported on - Reading; Listening; and Writing and Research/Inquiry. Mathematics has three areas of knowledge and skills reported on - Concepts and Procedures; Problem Solving and Modeling & Data Analysis; and Communicating Reasoning. For students in Grades 4 through 8 who have a test score from the prior grade (i.e., 3 through 7) the report includes two years of scores. The Connecticut State Department of Education made this change to emphasize a criterion-referenced interpretation for both achievement and growth. As in the past years, the report contains the normative data (district and school averages) in order to provide an additional reference point for parents.

The Connecticut Core Standards focus on critical thinking and problem solving - the real-world skills students need to be successful in college and careers. The Smarter Balanced Assessments are administered on computers and are designed to measure these skills through reading comprehension, writing, and math questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. Additional supports are available for some students with special needs, as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 Plan.

To find more resources specifically for parents and guardians, including Parent Guides designed to accompany student reports, please visit CTCoreStandards.org. Additionally, a short video is available (both in English and in Spanish) to help you get the most out of key elements of this report. The link to these resources are also posted on our district website, www.voluntownct.org, on the Voluntown Elementary School homepage.

Measuring student success against standards is vital for preparing our children to meet the demands of college and work. Our teachers and administrators are committed to working together to support students with great instruction and resources to meet these expectations. The **Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment** results are being analyzed and shared with teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, and parents so that, together, we can continue to strengthen our curriculum, instructional techniques, and assessment strategies for the benefit of your child.

If you have any questions about the **Individual Student Report**, please contact me at (860) 376-2325 or atrakas@voluntownct.org.

Best Regards,

Alycia M. Trakas
Principal/Assistant Superintendent
District Test Coordinator