

HAMLET M. HERNANDEZ  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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## BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 6, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This spring, the Branford Public Schools (BPS) will administer a number of state-mandated assessments that are necessary for the State of Connecticut to meet federal requirements.

Students in grade 11 will take the SAT at the end of March and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment before April vacation. During the month of May, students in grades 3 through 8 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), and those in grades 5 and 8 will also take the NGSS assessment. The SBA and NGSS assessments are conducted online and may include computer adaptive multiple-choice questions and/or require students to demonstrate learning through performance tasks.

These assessments provide a snapshot of a student's current level of performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science, and are used to inform instructional and programming decisions made on behalf of your child. As a district, we are committed to developing a comprehensive student profile that reflects the whole child; therefore, we consider the results of these assessments to be only one part of your child's current performance, and not the totality of their achievement.

The BPS staff will work to ensure this annual requirement is met in a timely manner. It is our intention to meet all the SDE requirements with minimal disruption to the academic day and to provide testing conditions that will allow all Branford students to perform their best.

In the weeks ahead, your child's school principal will provide additional details regarding this year's testing. Should you have any questions regarding these assessments, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hamlet M. Hernandez", is written over a large, stylized, light-colored scribble or watermark.

Hamlet M. Hernandez  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Building Principals  
Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent