

## Administrative Memo

**Date:** February 5, 2014  
**To:** School Administrators and District Test Coordinators  
**From:** Sharon Helwig, Ph.D.  
**Subject:** CCR-14-004 – Participation in Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test

Field tests scheduled for the spring, 2014, will continue as planned. Those assessments will:

- be computer adaptive
- be focused on Missouri Learning Standards
- contain items from the Smarter Balanced item bank
- be based on the same blueprint as the summative assessments to be used in the spring, 2015

The new plan for the 2014-2015 Missouri Assessment Program for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 alters the original summative assessment design by removing the classroom performance task and limiting the item types to those that can be electronically scored. While the field tests will contain performance tasks at all grade levels, they will provide valuable information to administrators, teachers, and students regarding use of the assessment platform, types of test items, and interaction with an online assessment free from the stress of accountability. In addition, the performance tasks will be available at grade levels through the interim assessment system in 2014-2015.

High schools selected for participation in the field test for the End of High School 11<sup>th</sup> grade assessment are encouraged to participate in that assessment as well. The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade Smarter Balanced field tests will provide high school students experience with the types of items that will be used increasingly in the assessment industry. Experience with these new item types will be useful as high schools prepare students for the types of items the updated ACT® may contain in spring 2016.

A list of districts participating in the field tests is posted on the Assessment web page.