

**Connecticut PTA
Smarter Balanced Survey:
Parent Feedback**

January 2016

Survey Overview

Develop
Survey

Align with
Committee's
Mission

Conduct
Survey

Analyze and
Report

DRAFT

1. Compared to the time taken for the previous statewide assessments (CMT/CAPT), the Smarter Balanced Assessment took -

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Less time	18	6.7%
About the same time	32	12.0%
More time	119	44.9%
Do not know	91	34.3%
No Responses	5	1.8%
Total	265	100%

- Based on comments, the primary reason for the increase in time was computer availability in the classroom/school
- Question did not differentiate between test time and overall “testing period”

2. Smarter Balance Assessment uses computers and other electronic devices. This is-

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
A step forward	82	31.9%
Difficult for children	109	42.4%
Helpful to analyze the students progress	26	10.1%
Time consuming	69	26.8%
Other	45	17.5%
Total	257	100%

- Many respondents concerned about students' computer and keyboarding skills and training
- Other questions about inability to “go back” while taking the test, inequities in computer distribution and rollout difficulties (i.e. ability to test an entire classroom at a time)
- A significant portion appear to see the technology as a positive

3. Statewide assessments are an appropriate way to assess student mastery of material

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
15	43	57	65	77
6%	17%	22%	25%	30%

- Many respondents believe that statewide testing is one of many ways to assess student mastery
- Concerns about “test prep” time, time away from instruction and differentiation for the student
- Some are optimistic about what may be done in the future

4. Statewide assessments help inform teachers of student progress and mastery of material

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
15	49	45	47	96	5
6%	19%	18%	18%	37%	2%

- Many respondents believe that “teachers should have enough information based on classroom work and in-class evaluation.”
- Concern about the timeliness of the results to inform instruction
- There appears to be little understanding of the benchmarking uses of these assessments

5. The Smarter Balanced Assessment offers accommodations for students with disabilities and English Language Learners

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
	9	48	58	24	41	70
	4%	19%	23%	10%	16%	28%

- Mixed responses based on many not having a child with these needs
- Many did mention the “read aloud” function

6. The Smarter Balanced Assessment offers constructive information regarding the individual student needs in Math and English Language Arts.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
8	36	50	56	98	7
3%	14%	20%	22%	38%	3%

- Concerns about results not being very specific about individual needs, students who don't test well and parent report

7. The Smarter Balanced Assessment takes the appropriate amount of time.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Applicable	Not Applicable
	4	23	58	60	95	14	
	2%	9%	23%	24%	37%	6%	

- A check question for the first question
- Concerns regarding the overall testing window time, screen time and test prep time

8. The Smarter Balanced Assessment report to parents was clear and concise..

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
9	62	61	48	54	20	
4%	24%	24%	19%	21%	8%	

- Parents would like better graphs, more detail and potential examples of areas of concern or ways to improve the students' mastery
- Many did express that the results were clear and concise but not entirely useful in diagnosing any areas of opportunity

9. The Smarter Balanced Assessment report to parents was well presented.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
8	52	72	46	58	20
3%	20%	28%	18%	23%	8%

- As with the previous slide, parents would like better graphs, more detail and potential examples of areas of concern or ways to improve the students' mastery

10. The Smarter Balanced Assessment report to parents offers ways to improve student learning progress.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
1	14	51	58	109	22
0%	5%	20%	23%	43%	9%

- As with the previous slides, parents would like better graphs, more detail and potential examples of areas of concern or ways to improve the students' mastery
- Many have not yet seen the report

Key Takeaways

- Continued push back and concern on overall “over testing” of students
- Mixed reviews regarding the use of technology
- Parents would like more detail in assessment reports
- Rollout and timing issues are areas of opportunity
- Need for a better survey writer!!