

**RESULTS OF SURVEY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS RE ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE  
MASTERY TEST COMMITTEE**

**DECEMBER 28, 2015**

The Superintendents of CT's School Districts were sent by CAPSS a questionnaire that sought their perspective on issues that are under consideration by the Mastery Test Committee.

The format of the questionnaire was one which asked superintendents to indicate whether they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed or strongly disagreed with twelve statements.

Sixty one or 37% of the Superintendents responded to the questionnaire. The response rate is well above the 25% threshold the reaching of which is normally regarded as making the results representative of the entire group to which a questionnaire is sent.

Before this document was prepared, the results were discussed with a group of superintendents. What was learned from this discussion regarding particular results is described below.

The results of the questionnaire are attached to this document. Those results indicate the following.

1. **Most superintendents** think that it is important for their districts to have an externally scored assessment in ELA and Math so that the districts will have data on student performance.
2. **Most superintendents** think that SBAC is an assessment that measures valuable content and skills.
3. **Most superintendents** think that SBAC measures content and skills that reflect what their districts teach in their curricula.
4. **A majority of superintendents** think that SBAC does **NOT** give their districts results that can be used to drive improvement efforts. The discussion with the group of superintendents revealed that those who think that the results **CANNOT** be used to drive improvement cite the fact that SBAC results do not provide the same detail as the CMT results provided. Those who think that the results do drive improvement efforts think that it is valuable to have results that provide a broad set instead of granular sets of data.
5. **Most superintendents** do **NOT** think that SBAC results are reported to districts in a timely way. The discussion with the group of superintendents revealed that superintendents think that receiving the results in August is too late for the results to be used most beneficially. Superintendents prefer receiving the results no later than mid-June so that they can be used for program improvement efforts that take place in July and August.

6. **A majority of superintendents** do **NOT** think that the time taken to administer the SBAC is appropriate. The discussion with the group of superintendents revealed the need for this response pattern to be further examined because it is unclear as to whether those who do not think that the time is appropriate are referring to how long it takes to administer the SBAC, the time during the year when SBAC is administered or both.
7. **A substantial majority of superintendents** think that the technology resources needed to efficiently administer the SBAC are available in their districts. The discussion with the group of superintendents revealed the need to determine whether the superintendents who do not think that their districts have the needed technology are leading particular types of districts.
8. **A solid majority of superintendents** think that the accommodations offered by SBAC to students with disabilities are appropriate.
9. **A majority of superintendents** do **NOT** think that the accommodations offered by SBAC to students who are English learners are appropriate. The discussion with the group of superintendents revealed that those who do not think that the accommodations are appropriate think that there simply are not a sufficient number of accommodations, that there is insufficient support for students to understand the English words in the assessment items and that requiring students who have recently arrived in the U.S. to take the assessment cannot be defended.
10. **Most superintendents** do **NOT** think that for the SBAC, students in their districts engage in preparation activities that significantly pull the students away from the curriculum.
11. **A solid majority of superintendents** think that the State Department of Education communication with the districts about the administration of the SBAC is clear. The discussion with the group of superintendents revealed that superintendents think that this communication and the communication cited in item twelve has improved significantly over the past few months.
12. **A solid majority of superintendents** think that the State Department of Education communication with the districts about the administration of SBAC has been timely.