[INSERT DATE]

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In Connecticut, all students in Grades 3-8 are tested each spring using the Smarter Balanced Assessments in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and math. The purpose of the end-of-year tests is to learn where our students are compared with where they need to be. The results can help parents and teachers identify subject areas where a student is performing beyond the grade-level expectations, and the subject areas where a student may need extra help. Attached you will find an Individual Student Report with your child’s scores on the 2024 Smarter Balanced ELA and math tests.

Connecticut educators use the Connecticut Core Standards to develop curriculum, and the Smarter Balanced tests are one measurement designed to assess student proficiency as it aligns to the expectations of these standards. These tests focus on the real-world skills students need to be successful in college and careers, specifically critical thinking and problem solving. Skills are measured through reading, writing, and math questions that require students to show that they truly understand the content. When taking the tests, additional supports are available for some students with special needs, as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.

There are resources available to help you understand the Connecticut Core Standards and your child’s Individual Student Report.

* Visit [CTCoreStandards.org](https://portal.ct.gov/sde/ct-core-standards) for resources, including Parent Guides, made to accompany student reports.
* Review this short video (available in both [English](https://youtu.be/lkW4w9ZyK9g?si=fr7m0GbXISnsjVUV) and in [Spanish](https://youtu.be/TQ_zzbPqCPw?si=FmKCDhclTg0PQFKW)) to help you get the most out of this report.
* Visit your district’s website at [INSERT DISTRICT ASSESSMENT WEBPAGE] for more information about the Smarter Balanced tests.

It is important that we measure student success against standards to evaluate the level of progress we are making in preparing Connecticut’s students for college and work. Students’ results on the Smarter Balanced test provide valuable information to target supports and resources where they are needed most to address student learning in the year ahead. If you have any questions about your child’s Individual Student Report, please contact their teacher or school.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

[INSERT TITLE]