

Moscow School District #281

650 N. Cleveland St. Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-1120 fax (208) 883-4440 www.ms281.org

Greg Bailey, Superintendent
Deb Adair, Business Manager

Sarah Hanchey, Curriculum Director
Shannon Richards, Special Services Director

Dear Parents and Guardians,

November 1, 2013

In the 2014-15 school year, Idaho will roll out new assessments in mathematics and English Language Arts that are aligned to the new Idaho Common Core Standards. These new assessments will be used to gauge how well students are mastering these new, higher academic standards. In high school, these assessments will be used to determine how ready students are for education after high school and for the workforce.

These new assessments will differ from the previous Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) in several ways. Whereas the ISAT only measured student knowledge based on multiple-choice questions, the new test will include different question types to better measure what a student truly knows and is able to do at the end of each grade level. For example, the test will include questions that allow students to write open-ended responses, questions that include usage of technology, and performance tasks. In addition, the new test will adapt to your child's ability so that your school can better measure how much academic growth your child has demonstrated in a given school year.

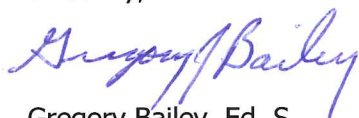
While this new test will not be officially administered to all students until Spring 2015, all of Idaho's public schools will be participating in a field test this coming spring to ensure that the testing process runs smoothly when the official tests are administered in Spring 2015. This means that all students in grades 3-11 will take the field tests in math and English language arts in Spring 2014, instead of taking the ISAT in math, reading, and language usage.

The purpose of the Spring 2014 field test is to "test the test" and help prepare schools, teachers, and students for the full implementation of the new assessments in Spring 2015. Because this is a field test, similar to a pilot, no scores will be sent home for your child from the field test. However, taking this field test will still greatly benefit your child because he or she will experience the new test format a year in advance and become familiar with the different types of questions.

To see the different types of test questions that will be on the new assessments, go to <http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/ELA.htm>

Please note that if your child is in 5th, 7th, or 10th grade, he or she will still take the statewide ISAT in **science** this spring. You will receive a report showing your child's score on that assessment. If you have any questions about information provided in this letter, please contact either of us or your school principal.

Sincerely,



Gregory Bailey, Ed. S.
Superintendent



Sarah Hanchey, Ed. S.
Curriculum Director

Administration
650 N. Cleveland
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.1120
FAX: 208.883.4440

Moscow High School
402 E. Fifth Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2591
FAX: 208.892.1136

Moscow Middle School
1410 East D Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.3577
FAX: 208.892.1182

Lena Whitmore Elementary
110 S. Blaine
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2621
FAX: 208.892.1202

A.B. McDonald Elementary
2323 East D Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.0228
FAX: 208.892.1216

J. Russell Elementary
119 N. Adams
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2715
FAX: 208.892.1241

West Park Elementary
510 Home Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2714
FAX: 208.892.1259

Paradise Creek Regional High School
1314 S. Main
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.3687
FAX: 208.882.6815

Support Services Facility
FAX: 208.892.1265
Location:
2245 White Avenue
Facilities
208.892.1129
Food Service
208.892.1123
Transportation
208.882.3933