



September 27, 2021

Dear Collins Families/Guardians:

This fall students in grades 4–5 will take the Smarter Balanced or Washington Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM) tests in math and English language arts. These tests are a brief check-in on student learning from school year 2020-2021.

Students had limited in-person time in the classroom and likely experienced fewer opportunities to learn last school year. Last spring's Smarter Balanced tests were postponed to fall as we prioritized critical in-person instruction time for the benefit of students, families, and district staff.

Smarter Balanced and WCAS tests were shortened this fall to ensure that students and teachers would have as much time as possible at the start of school year 2021–22 to establish relationships, routines, and activities.

The results from the Smarter Balanced and WA-AIM math and/or English language arts tests provide a picture of whether students across the state are on track to be ready for career or college.

Knowing your student's achievement level (1 through 4) will provide an important piece of information. As the school year progresses, your student's teacher will be able to provide more information about your student's skills in ELA and math.

Our fourth graders are scheduled to take the tests on October 6th and October 8th. Our fifth graders are scheduled to take the tests on October 5th and 7th. It is important for your child(ren) to attend so they are not pulled from instruction to make up the test.

For more information about the tests, visit: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing-overview>, and click on the name of the test.

To try out an online [Smarter Balanced practice test or WCAS training test](https://wa.portal.cambiumast.com/), visit: <https://wa.portal.cambiumast.com/>.

Please call or email me if you have questions about state testing.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your student is successful. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your them. We want your student to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Brugman
Assistant Principal

Creating connected, capable, contributing learners who achieve their highest potential every day