

CAASPP Update #3

Principals,

This is the next in a series of brief CAASPP Updates that will be sent out periodically. These Updates will be posted for future reference on our district's Assessment page located at <http://vusd.org/Departments.cfm?subpage=22150>.

The following question has been asked in various forms, and the answer may help in developing an understanding to the flexibility afforded in scheduling the state's on-line test.

Question: *Do all students in a specific grade, or classroom need to begin the test at the same time?*

Answer: *No.*

Explanation: During past traditional paper & pencil testing, a class set of student had to begin the test all at the same time, and then work until a "section" of the test was completed before they could take an extended break. Due to computer administration, and an advantage that comes with it, students can begin and end a test at their leisure. Here are three scenarios that might highlight the flexibility awarded with the on-line administration environment:

- The class began the test together, and one student came in 30 minutes late. This one student certainly won't get to the same end point as the rest of the class when the end of this testing session comes around. Can this student still begin their test? Yes, they can begin, and progress as far as they can. At some point in the future, they may need to be given the opportunity (either in that classroom, or in some other setting) to complete their test. This current teacher does **not** need to be the same individual who assists with the student in the future as they complete their test.
- Our site is limited in terms of the number of students we can test at one time. We have 3 teachers who teach grade 4. Teacher A will administer the grade 4 ELA test in one 30-minute session on each of days 1-3, Teacher B will administer the grade 4 ELA test to her students in one 30-minute session on each of days 3-6, while Teacher C will administer the grade 4 ELA test to his students in one 30-minute session on each of the days 7-9.
- Our site will have a pull-out design for test administration where a supporting teacher will assist in administering the test. I have 3 periods of ELA each day, and the students in each period will be split into two groups. I will continue instruction with half the class, as the other half tests. Mrs. Smith will pull out half my class to administer the test for me, during those designated days, and we'll switch the groups as scheduled.

There has been an announced black-out period for the Interim Assessments (Blocks or Comprehensive). It is recommended not to schedule these test between Thursday, March 5th and Tuesday, March 10th due to the possibility of the test administration site being down.