Dear Family [or actual name]:

This spring your student in grades 3-8 and 10 will take the Smarter Balanced or the Washington Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM) tests in math and English language arts (ELA). Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will also take the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) or the WA-AIM science assessment.

The results from these tests are one of many ways of understanding where students are in their learning, relative to grade-level learning goals in math, English language arts, and science. For students in grade 10, the Smarter Balanced or WA-AIM tests can also be used as a graduation pathway. The state assessment results can help all of us work together to pursue additional support or accelerated opportunities that may benefit your student’s learning. These assessments also fulfill state and federal requirements to understand how districts and the state are doing in meeting all students’ learning needs and help to improve instruction.

Most students will take the tests online. Our school is scheduled to take the tests [Insert: scheduled testing dates]

For more information about the Smarter Balanced and WCAS tests, visit the [OSPI State Testing page](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing) and click on the name of the test.

To try out an online Smarter Balanced practice or training test or WCAS training test, visit the [Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP) Portal](https://wa.portal.cambiumast.com/index.html) and click on the Practice and Training Tests button.

The WA-AIM is an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards aligned to the Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. For more information about the WA-AIM tests, visit the [OSPI Assessment for Students with Cognitive Disabilities page.](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing/assessment-students-cognitive-disabilities-wa-aim)

Please contact [Insert: name and contact information]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 student in building their skills so they can have a future full of opportunities.

Sincerely,

[Insert principal’s name]