Dear SCUSD Families:

As you may have heard, California is replacing the old pencil and paper tests taken each spring with new, computer based assessments tied to more modern learning goals for students.

Called the California Assessment of Student 8 and 11 will take the practice tests sometime May 16). Please

check with your [illegible] scores in the mail for the CAASSP.

You will, however, be notified of your child's score on the science CST, which the state still requires.

The CAASPP tests are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English and math, which the state adopted in 2010. The Common Core standards describe what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. Designed to prepare students for college and careers, Common Core standards are very challenging and ask students to solve problems, think critically, read complex text and practice academic writing, such as essays and reports. The new tests will require familiarity with basic computer skills, such as keyboarding (typing) and controlling a mouse.

If you want to see what types of questions students will be asked or how the tests will be presented, visit www.scusd.edu/testing, where you will find a link to practice tests called Smarter Balanced Assessments.

If you would like more information, please visit www.scusd.edu/testing and click the link to the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Web page. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent