

## **Opt out of spring 2018 SBAC test - Protect Nevada Children: [john@Jtahoe.com](mailto:john@Jtahoe.com)**

Soon 3rd-8th grade Nevada students will be taking the 8-10 (up to 12) hour Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test. We at Protect Nevada Children suggest you do **not** let your children take the 10 hour, secret, computer adaptive, SBAC test. What makes SBAC different from any other test in United States' history is the amount personal data collected, stored, and shared on students who take the test.

<https://portal.smarterbalanced.org/library/en/estimated-testing-times.pdf>

Opting out of the SBAC test says nothing negative about teachers or principals; in fact, teachers are forced to waste an incredible amount of instructional time to prepare for and give this ridiculous test. On our Facebook (FB) page, Protect Nevada Children (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633653620234619/>), in regards to the SBAC test, **a Sparks teacher wrote:**

**"My 3rd grade class has spent 10 hrs. already and we have another 2 to go today before we are finished. I finally relayed the info. to opt out to one of the parents of a student who had a grand-mal-seizure the night after she tried to take the first part of the test. I came home Friday and just cried."**

This was the first seizure the student had the entire school year. Other NV teachers have posted their thoughts and concerns on our Facebook page.

Nevada Teachers with struggling students will have lower evaluations based on SBAC test scores.

<http://www.nevadaneWSmakers.com/podcast/nnm03142017.mp4>

A Nevada teacher union lobbyist recently told Protect Nevada Children they would like to get rid of the SBAC test.

### **One school board unanimously urged parents to opt their children out of SBAC testing.**

<http://projects.registerguard.com/rg/news/local/34472935-75/springfield-school-board-urges-parents-to-ok-student-opt-out-of-state-smarter-balanced-tests.html.csp>

Most states have dropped SBAC testing; there are only 12 SBAC states left.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/states-using-parcc-or-smarter-balanced.html>

Both our neighbors that give the SBAC test, California and Oregon, have official statewide opt-out laws and forms, Nevada has neither.

You should be able to get an official SBAC out-out form from your school; or email John Eppolito, [john@Jtahoe.com](mailto:john@Jtahoe.com), to get: a) SBAC opt-out forms, b) and/or a copy of this document where the links are live.

<https://www.nevadansagainstcommoncore.com/sbac-refusal-forms...----and-more.html>

Here are the reasons we published last year, and revised this year, to refuse to take the SBAC test.

<https://www.nevadansagainstcommoncore.com/do-not-let-your-children-take-the-sbac-test.html>

Basically the SBAC test is a student data mining tool. Per SBAC's agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Education, SBAC must: "Provide timely and complete access to any and all data collected at the state level," to almost any entity that asks, except the parents.

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-assessment/sbac-cooperative-agreement.pdf>

These unknown entities will get 8-10 (up to 12) hours of raw SBAC data; parents and teachers will get a minimal amount of information. As a teacher, for the first 12 years my kids were in school I never opted them out of a test; but now my kids will never take an SBAC test.

**A few developments in regards to SBAC testing:** one from New Hampshire, one regarding American Institute for Research, and one regarding SBAC themselves.

### **1) Here's what New Hampshire teachers have to say about the SBAC test:**

- "1. Shockingly negative experience**
- 2. Totally grade level inappropriate; difficult even for some teachers with advanced degrees**
- 3. Seems the test was designed more as a psychological or sociological experiment, not as a measure of academic learning. Who created this test, anyway? It couldn't have been by professional educators.**
- 4. This would be a crushing emotional experience for my students....**
- 5. It is nothing less than child abuse for my special ed. students in my classroom.**
- 6. I refuse to administer this test to my students."**

[http://www.girardatlarge.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Murotake\\_D\\_ED306\\_JLCAR\\_20131219.pdf](http://www.girardatlarge.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Murotake_D_ED306_JLCAR_20131219.pdf)

We knew that:

a) American Institute for Research (AIR) was, "one of the world's largest behavioral and social science research and evaluation organizations".

<http://www.air.org/about-us>

b) AIR is the online test delivery system for SBAC.

<http://www.air.org/resource/air-partners-smarter-balanced-assessment-consortium-create-online-test-delivery-system>

c) AIR gets an incredible amount of raw SBAC data, much more than teachers, districts, and parents on students who take the 8-10 hour (plus) secret, computer adaptive test.

**2) Recently we learned AIR is very involved in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL),** if you watch at the 26 minute mark you will realize assessment is a big part of SEL.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ4KDub-2PM&feature=youtu.be&t=1559>

If you watch the entire hour video it becomes clear both AIR and Collaborative Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) want Social and Emotional data on our children.

**Nevada is one of only six SEL experimental states in the country.**

<http://thefederalist.com/2016/10/19/schools-ditch-academics-for-emotional-manipulation/#.WAd9eg-Vp5I>

**WCSD is one of only 10 SEL experimental districts in the country.**

<http://www.casel.org/partner-districts/districts/>

Unfortunately, WCSD has invited AIR and CASEL into our schools via the SEL.

<http://www.casel.org/partner-districts/washoe-county-school-district/>

And to make matters worse only two of the SEL experimental districts in the country give the SBAC test; WCSD and Sacramento, CA. California is protective of student data, Nevada is not.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SB1177](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1177)

It is quite possible that this school year, AIR (and CASEL) may be getting raw SBAC AND SEL data from only one school district in the country - Washoe County School District.

For years Protect Nevada Children (PNC) has been asking WCSD how SEL will be assessed and who will have access to the data, they will not respond. We learned in the 2016-17 school year WCSD used a psychological assessment (the DESSA) in schools without prior parental consent. With pressure from PNC the district decided to not use the DESSA this school year. In addition, there was an anonymous donation to WCSD of \$250,000 for SEL; the school board did not know the source of the donation.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/241446aefdad53bd41f15b445/files/Anonymous\\_Donation\\_for\\_S\\_and\\_E\\_Learning\\_Approved\\_WCSD\\_9\\_27\\_16.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/241446aefdad53bd41f15b445/files/Anonymous_Donation_for_S_and_E_Learning_Approved_WCSD_9_27_16.pdf)

Protect Nevada Children eventually learned the anonymous donation came from CASEL.

**3) In the name of test security, the SBAC will be "spying" on student social media accounts during SBAC testing.** On pages 102 and 103 the SBAC also gives suggestions on how states and local districts can do the same.

[ftp://ftps.smarterbalanced.org/~sbacpublic/Public/Member\\_Procedures\\_Manual\\_10-30-2015.pdf](ftp://ftps.smarterbalanced.org/~sbacpublic/Public/Member_Procedures_Manual_10-30-2015.pdf)

Please share this information with others, especially parents of 3rd-8th grade students.