



November 3, 2022

Superintendent's Message: Student Test Score Results

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students, and Community Members,

The California Department of Education (CDE) released test score results from the 2022 Smarter Balanced assessments of math and English language arts on Oct. 24 for tests taken by students in the spring of 2022.

While the reported results show that the majority of districts dropped significantly in the state and county, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District on average showed a slight increase with the English language arts results as students showed a growth of 0.61% from 74.44% standards met in 2019 to 75.05% standards met in 2022. In the area of math, there was a small decrease of 2.5% from a result of 61.25% meeting standards to 58.74% meeting standards.

The take away when we compare SMMUSD's results show that although we did not see the growth we anticipated prior to the pandemic, our student scores do not reflect the learning loss as indicated by this measure so many districts in the nation and state have experienced. We know our students would have had better results without the pandemic. We are poised to get back on track with the progress we were making with curriculum development that would provide greater relevance and context with 21st-century learning skills, and professional learning and analysis of root causes of learning issues. We have also learned some great lessons and strategies during the physical shutdown that are now incorporated in our efforts to provide for more efficient and meaningful learning experiences.

Student scores are categorized in four achievement levels that indicate whether a student has exceeded, met, nearly met, or did not meet the standards, in grades three-eight and 11. [Linked here](#) is an Ed Source write-up summarizing the performance of students as a result of the pandemic.

In the article, you will see that California students performed significantly worse in 2022 on Smarter Balanced, the state's standardized test, when compared to the 2019 result. The 2019 results are before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Note that the test was suspended in 2020 and 2021.

I am thankful for the staff who pivoted very quickly and in a highly stressful environment to learn and develop new teaching strategies in order to get the curriculum across to students. Thank you to the parents for being patient, supporting the staff, and rearranging your schedules and routines to support the learning of your students. Thank you to the students for your resilience, adaptability, and engagement in your learning.

We still have a lot of work to do in supporting all of our students in reaching their full potential. The data also indicates, like other districts in the state and California, there is a gap in performance on the

standardized assessment between historically marginalized and under-resourced groups in the United States when compared to the non-historically marginalized and resourced students.

[Linked](#) here is an Ed Source website where you can access the results of any school, district, county, and statewide results. The results can also be broken down by demographic groups of focus and interest.

We continue to support and encourage our students academically and social-emotionally, including with individualized attention and programs to meet their needs.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent