Benefits for Students taking Smarter Balanced Assessments

> The Smarter Balanced Assessments are the only standardized test given in the state that assesses the Common Core State Standards, including higher-level thinking, communication, reasoning, problem solving, and application of knowledge and skills in new situations. In other words, students can show what they know and can do in formats that allow them to construct their own responses (rather than just choosing the best option from pre-determined choices).

> Teachers and staff can gain information about students' progress toward meeting grade-level expectations (what students should know and be able to do) in the core academic areas of English language arts and math, and can plan instruction accordingly.

> By taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments in grades 3-8, students become familiar with the test and have several chances to get feedback on their performance, before taking the high school Smarter Balanced Assessment as a graduation requirement.

> Each student's Smarter Balanced Assessment performance provides a profile of the student's strengths and weak areas in each subject area tested.

> Because the Smarter Balanced Assessment has been designed to be a predictor of success in the freshman year in college, students in high school can use their Smarter Balanced Assessment performance as an indicator of areas they might want to strengthen prior to graduation.

> Because the Smarter Balanced Assessment assesses students' progress toward meeting standards, information regarding the performance of district groups of students can help district staff make decisions about the effectiveness of various instructional programs.

Consequences When Students Do Not Take the Smarter Balanced Assessment

> **Students in the class of 2019 and later who do not meet standard on the High School Smarter Balanced Assessment may not receive a high school diploma. Students in the classes of 2015 – 2018 will need to pass a state assessment that includes items that mirror the Smarter Balanced Assessment in order to receive a high school diploma.**

> Teachers staff will receive less information about the instructional needs of students who do not take the Smarter Balanced Assessments, which could lead to some students not receiving all the instructional support they might need to be successful later in school.

> Students who do not take the Smarter Balanced Assessment prior to high school will not have had the opportunity to practice and get feedback before taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment as a graduation requirement.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Refusal Documentation Form

Please print the following information:

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

School _____

Student's Grade Level _____

Date of Assessment _____

As the parent / guardian of the above named student, I choose for my child to not participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment I choose for him/her to not participate in: *(check one):*

- o the entire Smarter Balanced Assessment
- o certain subtests please specify: _____

(English Language Arts, Math)

My reason for this decision is: _____

_____

I have read and understand the benefits and consequences listed on the back of this form. In particular, I understand that:

> If my child does not take the High School Smarter Balanced Assessment, my child may not be able to obtain a high school diploma.

> Practice on the Smarter Balanced at younger grades can help students show their best performance on the High School Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Signature of Parent /

Guardian: _____

Date Signed:

School Representative:

This form is to be filed within the student's cumulative record located at the school building.