



District Administration Office

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January 9, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

With the 2018-19 school year well under way, I wanted to take a moment to provide some important information about this year's state tests.

BHSD17C will give Smarter Balanced tests starting Monday March 4, 2019. The tests are not timed so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. However, the results do act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement and can be used as a way to ensure he or she is getting the supports he or she needs. Additionally, the tests help BHSD17C's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning. When fewer students take the test, we are left with an incomplete and inaccurate picture of how our students are performing, and this limits our ability to address issues, better serve students, and continue to improve our educational system.

Included in this letter is a form that allows you to opt your child out of testing for the 2018-19 school year. The form is also posted on our website: www.brookings.k12.or.us. Should you wish to opt your child out, please submit the form to your School's Main Office. You can read more about your rights to opt-out here: <http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655>.

In BHSD17C, we are deeply committed to ensuring each and every student in our schools has the supports he or she needs to achieve high levels and graduate prepared for his or her next steps. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all students are set up to be successful from grade to grade and that will remain the focus of our district throughout the rest of the school year.

If you have general questions or want more information about the end-of-year tests, please see the attached factsheet. I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s), counselors, or building administrators. Thank you for your continued support of our school district. Please remember that only together can we ensure that Every Student Can Succeed.

Sincerely,

Sean Gallagher
BHSD17C Superintendent