[INSERT LOGO]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Every spring, our students in grades 3-8 participate in a state assessment in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. For the past [INSERT NUMBER] years, [NAME OF STATE] has administered a more useful test that measures the knowledge and skills that matter most in your child’s grade level — such as writing, problem-solving and the fundamental skills that lead to confidence and success in mathematics. This test is designed to help teachers better understand how much progress your child has made over the school year toward his or her learning goals. It also provides a window into how well the school is serving the overall student population.

We know that these scores do not tell your child’s whole academic story. They are one of several measures — including report card grades, classroom performance and teacher feedback — that together create a complete picture of your child’s progress.

Our goal is for the grade-level learning goals, the classroom instruction and the test to all be consistent. When the test is connected to classroom instruction, preparing for the test is simply students learning the skills and content presented in the classroom on a daily basis. Each grade level has clear, prioritized goals that describe what students need to know and understand before the end of that year, and the test is mapped to those goals.

In each subject, the score report has been broken down to reflect where your child is doing well or needs more practice. This information will be used to guide teachers’ instruction so they can provide additional support or more challenging work when needed. It can also be used to focus learning time at home in the areas that most need improvement.

I hope you find that the attached report provides you with useful information about your child’s learning. We encourage you to talk to your child’s teacher for additional information on how he or she is performing in class. For more information about the [INSERT NAME] tests, visit <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents/> OR <http://understandthescore.org/> OR [INSERT LINK]. You can also find answers to frequently asked questions, links to practice tests and supplemental resources in both subjects at [www.BeALearningHero.org](http://www.BeALearningHero.org).

We appreciate your support as we continue to hold our students to high expectations that we believe will ensure they are prepared to achieve their full potential.

Thank you,