

October 23, 2017

All Vermont students in grades 4, 8, and 11 participate in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for science unless a student qualifies for alternate assessment or an exemption for medical reasons. This assessment was given in May 2017 and our recent results have now been released.

The NECAP test measures students' academic knowledge and skills that make up Science Literacy. Student scores are reported as scaled scores and at four levels of academic achievement:

- Proficient with Distinction
- Proficient
- Partially Proficient
- Substantially Below Proficient

This is the last year of administration of the NECAP Science assessment as Vermont adopted new Science Standards known as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in 2014. Vermont is currently working with Rhode Island to develop our new NGSS aligned assessment. A statewide field test of this new assessment is scheduled for May 2018, with full implementation for the 2018- 2019 school year. The exam will be given in grades 8 and 11 as in the past, but because of the layout of the NGSS, Vermont will now give the exam in 5th grade as opposed to 4th. The assessment will be shorter than the current NECAP, computer-based (similar to the Smarter Balanced test) and will include technology-enhanced test items. The current plan calls for two, one-hour test sessions.

A summary of Harwood Unified Union's Science NECAP Scores for the past three years compared to the State are as follows:

Scaled Score

	2017		2016		2015	
	HUUSD	State	HUUSD	State	HUUSD	State
Grade 4	443	439	443	439	443	439
Grade 8	835	834	835	834	837	834
Grade 11	1136	1135	1136	1135	1134	1135

Proficient Cut Scores Grade 4=440, Grade 8=840, Grade 11=1140

Percentage Proficient or Above

	2017		2016		2015	
	HUUSD	State	HUUSD	State	HUUSD	State
Grade 4	64%	46%	62%	48%	65%	46%
Grade 8	28%	25%	24%	23%	38%	24%
Grade 11	40%	33%	38%	30%	36%	32%