Importance of SBAC 11th grade test for students who take math courses at Regents Institutions

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• College Content-Readiness Definition for SBAC:
  Students who perform at the College Content-Ready level in mathematics demonstrate foundational mathematical knowledge and quantitative reasoning skills necessary for introductory courses in a variety of disciplines. They also demonstrate subject-area knowledge and skills associated with readiness for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing mathematics and statistics courses.

  “most typical entry-level college mathematics and statistics courses (e.g., College Algebra and Introductory Statistics)”

The students’ performances will be labeled as below, and there will be messages attached to them.

• Level 4: Demonstrates thorough understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills associated with college content readiness
• Level 3: adequate
• Level 2: partial
• Level 1: minimal
SBAC results will affect the students’ next math class, but how should SBAC results be used to help the student?

1. Use the information about the math courses to take at the 12th grade

2. NOT to be used to tell them about NOT taking math classes in the 12th grade

3. NOT to be used to decide what to take in college one year and a half later

4. NOT to be interpreted as College Ready at the end of the 11th year

5. NOT to be interpreted as College Ready for STEM majors, or even for any major which requires Calculus I anytime
What are the main problems about using the SBAC results for the students starting college?

1. Time gap (at UI, we do not accept math placement results older than a year)

2. Content gaps between SBAC testing and start of college (a 12th grade math course)

3. Students and parents may interpret the SBAC messages out of context: “College Ready”, “Exempt from taking remedial classes”

4. Students starting college with College Algebra instead of Precalculus, Calculus I, or II, may take longer than 4 years to graduate from college. They should not be advised to postpone taking the math courses.

5. SBAC tests may not cover all of CCSSI, not with precise measurements, too low level material for college (1% of freshmen take Algebra I or Geometry at UI, and SBAC will not give information above those courses), and SBAC will be used in 25 states, trying to make all of us happy at the same time.
Conclusions:

1. Every student coming to Regents Universities must take the University Math Placement tests.

2. Students should not take breaks in taking Math Courses.

3. SBAC’s minimal requirements are not for everyone, encourage all STEM majors taking math courses leading to AP Calculus and so on.