



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell *Dianna R. Wentzell*  
Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** July 8, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Summative Student Assessments in 2016-17

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is providing advance notification on some important aspects of the state summative assessments for 2016-17. We appreciate the close consultation with and ongoing feedback from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Assessment and Accountability Subcommittee in these matters.

**1. Connecticut Summative Student Assessment Window in 2016-17**

After consulting with the CAPSS subcommittee, District Test Coordinators, and SAT Test Center Supervisors, the CSDE is establishing the following testing window for the state summative student assessments in 2016-17.

State Assessment	Content Area(s)	Grade(s)	Testing Window
<a href="#">Connecticut Smarter Balanced</a>	English Language Arts & Mathematics	3 – 8	Monday, March 27, 2017 – Friday, May 26, 2017
<a href="#">CMT/CAPT</a>	Science	5, 8 and 10	Monday, March 27, 2017 – Friday, April 28, 2017
<a href="#">CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist</a>	Science	5, 8 and 10	<i>Upload Dates:</i> Monday, March 27, 2017 – Friday, April 28, 2017
<a href="#">Connecticut Alternate Assessment</a>	English Language Arts & Mathematics	3 – 8 and 11	Monday, March 27, 2017 – Friday, May 26, 2017
<a href="#">Connecticut SAT School Day</a>	Evidence Based Reading/Writing and Mathematics	11	<i>Primary Test Date:</i> Wednesday, April 5, 2017 <i>Makeup Dates:</i> Tuesday, April 25, 2017 Wednesday, April 26, 2017

A shorter testing window will keep districts/schools in “testing mode” for a shorter duration. It will also ensure that all students statewide are tested within a more uniform timeframe in the school year. This change is possible due partly to the fact that the overall testing time was reduced substantially with the discontinuance of the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (ELA) Performance Task.

## **2. Connecticut SAT School Day Testing Dates for 2016-17**

Due to the collective efforts of district/school leaders, teachers, counselors, and CSDE staff, Connecticut successfully implemented the SAT School Day in 2015-16 with one primary test date and one make-up date. After experiencing this recent administration, feedback from Connecticut SAT Test Center Supervisors indicates that instead of multiple *primary* dates, it is more desirable to have multiple *make-up* dates. Therefore, after negotiating with the College Board and discussing with the CAPSS subcommittee, the CSDE has established the Connecticut SAT School Day test dates for 2016-17 that are presented in the table on page 1.

This testing schedule offers several advantages:

- A primary date in April instead of in March substantially reduces the likelihood of weather-related cancellations/delays.
- The April 5<sup>th</sup> SAT test form is scheduled to be released publicly while the March forms will not be released publicly.
- Two make up days are offered on two different days (i.e., one on a Tuesday and another on a Wednesday).
- SAT testing will be completed before AP testing starts in May.

## **3. CMT/CAPT Science Online Testing**

Starting with 2016-17, the CSDE is transitioning the CMT/CAPT Science for Grades 5, 8 and 10 to online testing. The CSDE will utilize the same Test Delivery System (TDS) that most students and teachers have already experienced during the successful administration of the Smarter Balanced and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments. The test content will remain similar to the current CMT/CAPT Science test forms.

The testing window for science that is presented in the table on page 1 is comparable in length to that in prior years but is scheduled to occur later in the school year. With the transition to online testing, schools will be allowed to test their students over multiple days throughout the testing window rather than testing all students on the same schedule.

In addition to the CAPSS subcommittee, the CSDE actively sought feedback about this transition from testing coordinators in several medium to large-sized districts across the state; their strong support for online testing for CMT/CAPT Science was unanimous. The CSDE's technical advisory committee of psychometric experts also recommends transitioning to online testing starting in 2016-17.

Online testing will streamline the test administration process, reduce costs, and better position Connecticut students, teachers, schools, and districts for the future transition to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessments which are expected to be delivered online.

We hope you have a great summer. Please contact [Abe Krisst](#) at 860-713-6894 with any questions regarding the items in this memorandum.

cc: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer