



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: District Administrators (DA's in TIDE)

FROM: Abe Krisst, Bureau Chief, Student Assessment, Performance Office

DATE: March 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Field Test

This communication provides additional clarification supporting the memorandum sent from Commissioner Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell to Superintendents on [February 13, 2018](#), pertaining to the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) Field Test. That memo outlined important milestones and provided context to the development of this new assessment being developed by the Performance Office in the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

The CSDE will be field testing the new CTAS this spring. Students eligible for the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) who are in Grades 5, 8, or 11 are expected to participate in this CTAS Field Test. Following the testing window, the CSDE will review item-performance data. Therefore, in 2018, districts will not receive performance results on the CTAS Field Test. However, districts **will be accountable for participation** for all eligible students.

For the 2018 CTAS Field Test, trained teachers will administer an assigned portion of the assessment (either Form 1 or Form 2) to eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Trained Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) must record student ratings for the CTAS Field Test. The TEAs must also submit these student ratings in the Data Entry Interface (DEI) during the submission window from **April 30, 2018, to May 25, 2018**.

The three tables that follow outline resources available for the CTAS Field Test.

Table 1: Previously Published CTAS Field Test Resources

Resource	Purpose
NGSS Alternate Assessment Webinar–February 16, 2018	This webinar provided a high-level explanation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Alternate Assessment development process for district administrators.
Components of the NGSS Alternate Assessment	This resource outlines the general components of the NGSS Alternate Assessment.
Connecticut Alternate Science Field Test Essence Statements– By Grade and By Storyline	This resource outlines the NGSS Performance Expectations and associated Essence Statements that were used to develop the CTAS Field Test. In one document, these components are broken out by grade and in the other document, these components are broken out by Storyline.
2017-18 Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Field Test Training Memo–March 5, 2018	This memo outlines the required training for Trained Teachers Administering the CTAA and CTAS Field Test and includes new information specific to the CTAS Field Test and its administration procedures.

Table 2: Newly Published CTAS Field Test Resources

Resource	Purpose
CTAS Field Test Administration Manual	This manual describes CTAS policy and procedures for district staff and TEAs.
District Assignment Spreadsheet	This spreadsheet is used to determine your District Assignment of Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Storylines (Form 1 or Form 2).
Performance Tasks PDFs	The Performance Task PDFs include all the required grade-level Performance Tasks. The Performance Tasks are grade- and form- specific.
Resource Packets	The Resource Packets include all required grade-level resources to administer the Performance Tasks. Resource packets are grade- and form- specific. Please take great care to ensure that each Resource Packet is printed in color ink prior to test administration. Additional instructions for preparing these resource packets are included in the Resource Packet Preparation section in the <i>CTAS Field Test: Test Administration Manual</i> .
Student Score Worksheets	Student Score Worksheets should be used to record student scores aligned to each Core Extension for each Activity in the assigned Performance Tasks. The Student Score Worksheets are grade- and form-specific.
Sample Parent Letter for Districts	This letter is a sample letter that districts may use to communicate with the parents of students taking the new CTAS Field Test, as well as the CTAA.

Table 3: CSDE Performance Office Contact Information

Inquiry Type	Who to Contact	Contact Information
General	CSDE Performance Office	860-713-6860 or ctstudentassessment@ct.gov
NGSS Standard Science Assessment CTAS Field Test Content CSDE Policy	Abe Krisst Jeff Greig	Abe.Krisst@ct.gov Jeff.Greig@ct.gov
CTAS Field Test Administration Allowable Adaptations	Janet Stuck Joe Amenta Deirdre Ducharme	Janet.Stuck@ct.gov Joseph.Amenta@ct.gov Deirdre.Ducharme@ct.gov

Thank you for your cooperation in making this field test a success.