

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

NEW

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01a.m. Saturday, December 22, 2001

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First-Year Results of Second Generation (CAPT-2) Connecticut Academic Performance Test to Set New Baseline for High School Student Achievement

(Hartford, Conn.) The attached Circular Letter and booklet present the results of the second generation CAPT, which was administered in May of 2001 to approximately 40,000 Connecticut public high school students.

Results this year cannot be compared with previous years' results. A research study conducted by the State Education Department shows that student performance in 2001 generally followed the trend of small but continuous improvement demonstrated from 1995 –2000 on the first generation CAPT.

The new generation test was introduced this year to bring improvements to the way the state assessment measures Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science and to increase measurement accuracy and comparability over years. In the Reading Across the Disciplines section, a new test was added which measures a student's ability to read for information. In both the Mathematics and Science tests, the number of test items has been increased and balanced across the content areas to provide a more comprehensive picture of student performance in these disciplines. The Writing test is combined with the Editing and Revising test to provide a more complete profile of how well the student writes.

Other improvements to the test include more detailed information for parents, students and educators, including sub scores for specific areas of math and science and results for subgroups of students – such as by gender or race ethnicity. The district and state reports have also been enhanced to include additional information to help parents, teachers and administrators better understand student performance and future instructional needs.

In releasing the results of the CAPT-2, State Education Commissioner Dr. Theodore S. Sergi said, "The improvements we have made in this annual assessment will give parents and teachers important information about their students' performance. They will also help to give us direction on how schools must change to better serve their students' academic needs."

Commissioner Sergi added, "While the CAPT-2, like the CMT in Grades 4,6, and 8, is a critical measure of Connecticut's high schools and their students, we must recognize that many different indicators of success are important to our understanding of the accomplishments and needs of our young people. We must use many measures – in addition to standardized tests-- to develop a comprehensive view of student performance and quality of programs."

For details on CAPT-2, please see "Highlights" on the attached Circular Letter C-13.