



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Common Core District Leads  
**FROM:** Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer *DRW*  
**DATE:** November 26, 2014  
**RE:** November Newsletter

**ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER**

This is the November 2014 installment of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Academic Office monthly newsletter. We hope you will find helpful information within the newsletter that will support your district's implementation efforts of the Common Core State Standards as well as other key standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment topics.

**Social Studies Framework**

At the November meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Education, a Framework for Elementary and Secondary Social Studies was presented for discussion. This Framework was developed by a team of writers that includes K-12 Connecticut teachers and faculty from the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University. A partnership with the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies has been essential in supporting the development of the Framework. The Framework may be found at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp> along with a request for public comment. The Connecticut State Board of Education will consider the adoption of this Framework at the February 2015 meeting. The Framework will provide guidance for the development of social studies curriculum in districts. All questions may be directed to [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov)

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)**

Connecticut has partnered with the National Center and State Collaborative to develop our new Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA). This assessment is designed for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and 11 and will be administered beginning in March 2015. This new assessment is aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics and replaces the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist in the areas of English language arts and math. Eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities will continue to be assessed with the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist in Science. Attached please find a chart that illustrates key changes in this assessment system. Questions may be directed to [Janet.Stuck@ct.gov](mailto:Janet.Stuck@ct.gov)

**SRBI Survey**

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has designed this brief 20-item survey to gather information regarding the implementation of Connecticut's Framework for Scientific Research-Based Interventions statewide. This survey is part of the CSDE's ongoing efforts to communicate with and support educators in our collective work to improve student outcomes. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide all supports that correspond directly to your survey responses, but we can assure you that your input will affect our thinking and

planning. We are grateful for your participation in this needs assessment and your continuing partnership to provide all students with a continuum of support. The survey may be accessed at: [http://ctcorestandards.org/?page\\_id=5226](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=5226). If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact one of the following CSDE Consultants: Jennifer Webb (jennifer.webb@ct.gov), Jennifer Michalek (jennifer.michalek@ct.gov), or Donald Briere (donald.briere@ct.gov)

### **Smarter Balanced Updates**

The Assessment unit publishes a weekly update on Student Assessment. All District Test Coordinators receive these updates and they are also available at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2748&Q=334726>. Questions may be directed to [Abe.Krisst@ct.gov](mailto:Abe.Krisst@ct.gov)

### **Smarter Balanced Grade 11 and College Placement**

On June 18, 2014, the Board of Regents approved a list of multiple, commonly accepted measures of skill level assessment in order to be compliant with Public Act 12-40. This list represents the indicators for student assessment to determine the most appropriate student placement at the individual institutions. Smarter Balanced is one of the multiple measures colleges may use in determining appropriate placement. Other measures include; CLEP/AP/DANTES, SAT Scores, ACT Scores, HS Transcript, Accuplacer, Accuplacer WritePlacer, Local Challenge Essay, Non-Cognitive Questionnaire, Student Interview, and Local Math Exam. Please note that in this context, local exam refers to a placement exam specific to a college or university. Questions may be directed to [Gail.Pagano@ct.gov](mailto:Gail.Pagano@ct.gov)

### **New Materials at CT Standards Website**

Our academic office website is dedicated to materials, resources, and professional learning opportunities in support of standards implementation in your district. This website is refreshed three times each week and there is always **NEW** material. Please consider submitting a unit that your teachers have created. Our team will provide feedback to you and possibly feature the work of your teachers on our site! We are happy that our resource list includes work developed by our teachers. Questions about the website should be directed to [Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov). The website is found at: <http://ctcorestandards.org/>



### **Webinar Series for Principals**

The Academic Office will continue to host a webinar series for principals to support Common Core implementation in schools. The webinars are live the last Wednesday of each month. If you miss the live webinar, you can access the webinars at our website: <http://ctcorestandards.org/>