

#### CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Assessment and Accountability in 2020-21

Thursday October 22, 2020 -- 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer Abe Krisst, Bureau Chief, Performance Office

### **Performance Matters 2020**



11 webinars over the next several weeks!

See <u>2020 Performance Matters flier</u> for session descriptions and registration links



## **Webinar Purpose**

### Assessment and Accountability in 2020-21

- Affirm CSDE's commitment to statewide assessments
- Describe plans for district and school accountability for the 2020-21 school year
- Discuss initial guidance for administering state summative assessments
- Answer attendee questions



#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT



TO: Superintendents of Schools

Superintendents or Schools

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer yol Jepulakii sluo-

OATE: October 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Assessment and Accountability in 2020-21

State assessments' are important guideposts to our promise of equity. They are the most accurate tool available to tell us if all students – regardless of race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, disability, or zip code – are growing and achieving at the highest levels on the state standards.

The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed caused unprecedented disruptions to public education this year. Six months ago, educators, families, and students rallied admirably as we transitioned to emergency, full-time remote learning. Statewide cacdemic assessments and formal school/district accountability were rightly cancelled in 2019-20 so we could work together to address inequities in terms of accept to devices conceptibly and other possessor recommend.

To make the best use of testing time during the year, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSD) released guidance on <u>Sensible Assessment Practices</u> in June 2020. This guidance emphasized small-scale, fine-grain assessments coupled with formative assessment practices to monitor student learning and progress on an ongoing basis during the 2020-21 school year. The <u>Smarter Balanced Interium Assessment Blocks (IAB) and the Focused IABs</u> are high quality tools that are aligned to our state standards, offered at no cost to districts, and usable with students in Grades 2-11. These assessments can be administered remotely. Most importantly, they provide actionable information for the classroom teacher to adjust instruction and accelerate learning on the grade-level standards during the 2020-21 school year.

Though disruptions to learning due to the pandemic are continuing, it is vital that we reaffirm our commitment to equity and administer all statewide assessments during the 2020-21 shool year. Having results in 2020-21 will allow us to monitor long-term trends and evaluate the full impact of the pandemic on student achievement and growth. It will also provide us with accurate data to target support and resources where they are needed the most, so that any negative impact of this pandemic on student learning is short lived. Therefore, as of this writing, the CSDE expects that all districts will administer all state assessments to all students during the CSDE 2020-21 school year.

Box 2219 • Hartford, Connecticut 06145
An Equal Opportunity Employer

¹They include the standard academic assessments (i.e., Smarter Balanced, SAT, NGSS), the alternate assessment (i.e., CTAA, CTAS), the English language proficiency assessment (i.e., LAS Links), and other assessments (i.e., Kindergarten Entrance Inventory, Physical Fitness Assessment, K-3 reading).

## The Big Picture

### **Assessment and Accountability for 2020-21**

- Administer all state summative assessments
- Publicly report all available data to the extent feasible and defensible (i.e. assessment, attendance, discipline, course participation, graduation, and postsecondary enrollment) to understand how student achievement and growth have been impacted by the pandemic, and what strategies are effective in increasing student engagement and success.
- Seek federal approval to <u>not</u> implement formal school and district accountability as usual for 2020-21

### The Performance Office oversees:

- Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Next Generation Science
   Standards (NGSS) Assessments
- Connecticut SAT School Day
- Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessments
- LAS Links English Language Proficiency Assessment
- Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA)
- Kindergarten Inventory (KEI)



## What is the current Big Picture for Assessment in Connecticut?

- All state summative assessments are expected to be administered during the 2020-21 school year.
- As outlined in the <u>Addendum One</u> of the *Adapt,* Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together guidance, "students participating in remote learning programming will be expected to access statewide assessments in-person, unless the assessments are available remotely."



If remote tools are available, what is the recommended mode of administration?

- 1. At school for students attending in-person or hybrid models.
- 2. For those students who are learning remotely, administration should be in a school/district setting where students can take the assessments under regular test administration protocols.
- 3. For those students who are learning remotely and cannot attend an administration in a school/district setting, then the remote option can be used.

## What is the current status of possible remote administration?

- There will be a remote administration available for LAS Links.
- The Performance Office is considering a remote administration for both Smarter Balanced and the NGSS standard assessment.
- Districts have volunteered to "pilot" the remote administration tool.
- More information is forthcoming.

There are three state assessments that can be administered currently:

- The Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS)
- The Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA)
- The Kindergarten Inventory (KEI)

Is there special guidance for these?



### **Special Guidance for CTAS:**

- When administering the assessment, please ensure that all COVID-19 safety protocols are thoroughly followed.
- The CSDE is recommending that the CTAS be administered in a school environment. Scores can be submitted through the Data Entry Interface between 3/29/21 - 6/4/21.
- If a student is a fully-remote student, it would be possible to administer the test **only** if a trained teacher is available in-person to administer the assessment in a one-on-one situation.

Guidance for CTAA is forthcoming.

### Special Guidance for CPFA:

- When administering the assessment, please ensure that all COVID-19 safety protocols are thoroughly followed.
- The CSDE is recommending that the CPFA only be administered in a school environment.

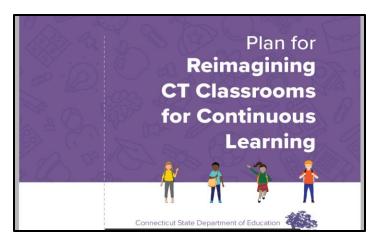


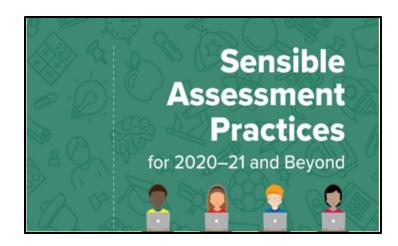
### **Special Guidance for KEI:**

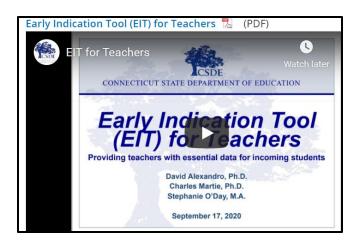
- When administering the assessment, please ensure that all COVID-19 safety protocols are thoroughly followed.
- Unlike the CTAS and CPFA where a remote administration is not recommended, a remote administration of the KEI may be utilized since the assessment is a checklist of skills.



### **Key Resources**

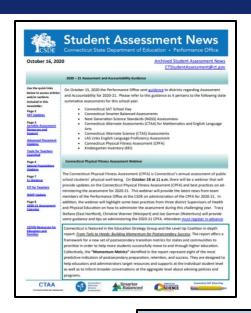








Subscribe to the Student
Assessment Newsletter and receive updates to the
Connecticut Comprehensive
Assessment Program Portal.



Access the <u>Performance</u> <u>Matters Newsletters</u>.



### **Questions?**



### **School/District Accountability**

Renee Savoie, renee.savoie@ct.gov, 860-713-6858

### **Assessment**

ctstudentassessment@ct.gov, 860-713-6860

