



For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Kelly Donnelly 860.713.6525

Districts receive grants to help reduce testing, increase instruction

Funds awarded for local reviews, modifications of assessment programs

(HARTFORD, CT)—The Connecticut State Department of Education today awarded over \$425,000 in grants that will help districts spend less time on testing students and more time on teaching.

The Department awarded \$428,253 to 48 districts as part of the Assessment Reduction grant program, which Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced in September. Districts received awards up to \$10,000 each.

“Tests are important tools in the teaching and learning toolbox that helps track student progress towards success in college and careers. But, it’s also important to ensure that the already crowded schedules of our students are not filled with too many tests,” Governor Malloy said. “This grant will support local efforts to eliminate tests that do not contribute to student learning, and, in doing so, increase time for classroom instruction.”

Under federal law, Connecticut must administer end-of-year tests to all students in Grades 3-8 and once in high school. However, many exams are selected and administered at the discretion of the local school or district.

“This grant encourages districts to take a constructive view of their assessment practices in order to determine how to make changes that will improve teaching and learning processes,” Interim Commissioner of Education Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell said. “These funds will also support local efforts to improve the quality of student assessments already in use, including the tailoring and personalization of assessments to individual student needs.”

The grants will help districts comprehensively analyze their tests to ensure that they reflect district priorities, alignment to new state standards, provide maximum value, are not redundant with other assessments, and reduce testing time wherever possible.

Winning districts must complete an inventory of their assessments by June 30, 2015. They will then modify, eliminate, or replace assessments that are redundant, ineffective, or out of alignment and must inform their communities about how that will improve teaching and learning. Districts will also be required to train staff on how to understand the characteristics of high-quality assessments and how to use assessments effectively to inform teaching.

A list of winning districts is below.

2015 Assessment Reduction grants

District	Amount (\$)	District	Amount (\$)
1. ACES	10,000	25. Meriden	6,600
2. Andover	10,000	26. Middlebury - RSD #15	10,000
3. Avon	10,000	27. Monroe	10,000
4. Berlin	10,000	28. New Fairfield	9,500
5. Bridgeport	10,000	29. North Haven	10,000
6. Brookfield	9,900	30. Norwich	10,000
7. Cheshire	9,900	31. Old Saybrook	8,010
8. Colchester	8900	32. Oxford	9,905
9. Coventry	10,000	33. Plainfield	7,210
10. CREC Magnet	9,879	34. Plymouth	10,000
11. Cromwell	9,030	35. Portland	9,950
12. Danbury	9,500	36. Prospect - RSD #16	10,000
13. East Lyme	8,800	37. Salem	10,000
14. Eastford	5,667	38. Simsbury	10,000
15. Easton/Redding	10,000	39. Sprague	10,000
16. Explorations	2,900	40. Thomaston	10,000
17. Glastonbury	5,625	41. Union	9,762
18. Groton	7,670	42. Wallingford	8,880
19. Hamden	8,754	43. Watertown	6,000
20. Hampton	10,000	44. West Haven	10,000
21. Hartland	7,220	45. Weston	9,750
22. Hebron - RSD #8	9,150	46. Willington	10,000
23. Jumoke Charter School	10,000	47. Woodbridge/Amity/REG 5	9,800
24. Litchfield	9,991	48. RSD #6 - Litchfield	10,000
		TOTAL	428,253

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CONTACT: Kelly Donnelly
 Director of Communications and Strategic Community Partnerships
 Connecticut State Department of Education
 Phone: 860-713-6525
 Mobile: 860-983-1550
 Email: Kelly.Donnelly@ct.gov