[INSERT DATE]

Dear Parent or Guardian:

**Attached/Enclosed you will find your child’s Individual Student Report with the scores from the 2023 Connecticut Alternate Assessment System.**

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System was designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. They include three components available to eligible students depending upon decisions made at the Planning and Placement Team meeting each year, and the implementation of the Individualized Education Program (IEP). The three components include the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) for English Language arts and Math administered to eligible students in Grades 3-8 and 11, the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment for eligible students in Grades 5, 8 and 11, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) administered to eligible students in Grades Kindergarten-12 with an IEP **and** who are also identified as an English learner/multilingual learner (EL/ML).

Participation in the Alternate Assessment System is determined by the needs of the student, the grade of the student, and if the student is identified as an EL/ML. Depending on your child’s grade and eligibility, one or more tests were administered by your child’s teacher in spring 2023.

**What does the CTAA test measure?**

The CTAA tests are designed to be accessible for students to show what they know and can do in reading, writing, and math. For example, reading passages are reduced in length and include pictures and graphics. Math items include common geometric shapes and smaller numbers. The tests use multiple-choice items to measure skills and are read to students by a trained teacher in a one-to-one test setting. Students are supported with accommodations per their IEP.

**How are CTAA scores reported?**

The scores from the CTAA English language arts and math tests are presented in the Individual Student Report. There are four performance categories: Exceeds the Alternate Achievement Standard, Meets the Alternate Achievement Standard, Approaching the Alternate Achievement Standard, and Does not Meet the Alternate Achievement Standard. These reports include descriptions of the skills the student can demonstrate.

**What does the CTAS test measure?**

The CTAS tests are designed to be accessible performance tasks administered by a trained teacher. These tasks allow students to show what they know and can do in science, specifically Earth, Life, and Physical Science. This test includes color visual supports, activities, and supports the teacher may provide to confirm understanding.

**How are CTAS scores reported?**

The scores from the CTAS scores are provided in four performance categories; Exceeds the Alternate Achievement Standard, Meets the Alternate Achievement Standard, Approaching the Alternate Achievement Standard, and Does Not Meet the Alternate Achievement Standard. The Individual Student report includes detailed information about skills the student demonstrated.

**What does the CAAELP test measure?**

The CAAELP tests are designed for students in Grades K-12 who are both EL/ML learners with a significant cognitive disability documented in their IEP. These tests provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their English language skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. These students are tested individually by a trained teacher.

**How are CAAELP scores reported?**

CAAELP scores include an overall score with three categories: Proficient, Progressing, and Emerging. More specific information is provided in Overall Modality scores for Productive language (Speaking and Writing) and Receptive language (Listening and Reading). These modality scores are divided into four performance levels: Advanced, Early Advanced, Intermediate, and Beginning.

**How can families find more information?**

* For more information on the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment, please refer to the [Parent Overview of Connecticut’s Alternate Assessment System](https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/-/media/project/client-portals/connecticut/pdf/2019/parent-overview-ct-alternate-assessment-system.pdf) available on the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System](https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/CTAA-Skills-Checklist/Connecticut-Alternate-Assessments) Webpage.

These Alternate Assessments help teachers and parents see how their child is performing on grade-level skills. The results can point to areas where a student is performing on target, and the areas where they may need extra help.

It is important to remember that the information provided in your child’s report(s) is only one source of information about your child’s academic performance. These results should be used with other information about your child such as the IEP, a progress report, a recent report card, and teacher feedback.

Your student’s test results will provide you and their teacher with valuable information to support your child in the year ahead. If you have any questions about your child’s Individual Student Report, please contact your child’s teacher.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

[INSERT TITLE]