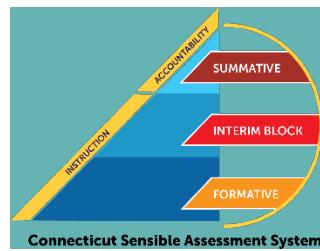


Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education

Performance Office

September 2025



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Welcome to the 2025-26 School Year

The Performance Office extends a warm welcome to our new and returning school administrators and educators, including those who will support the statewide testing program! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and wish you a safe, productive, and fulfilling school year ahead. We are here to answer any questions you have and provide the resources you need throughout the school year. Please reach out to our staff anytime by phone or email. A full list of staff and contact information are available on [our website](#).

CT SAT School Day

Please visit the [Bluebook New Tech Requirements page](#) for information pertaining to fall 2025 changes to Bluebook.

District Contacts

Please verify that your district contacts are correct for the 2025-26 school year in [EdSight](#). Your Contacts Manager Writer should be notified if changes are required.

K-3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment

Visit the new [K-3 Literacy Assessment page](#) to learn more about these assessments and upcoming trainings.

Smarter Balanced Tools for Teachers

[Tools for Teachers](#) has been upgraded! The significant enhancements are the direct result of valuable input from educators across the Consortium. Smarter Balanced is confident that these improvements will strengthen instructional impact, save teacher's precious time, and make it easier to meet individual learner needs.

What's Enhanced:

- Clear, easy-to-find claims, targets, and standards at the top of the page
- Approximate lesson times added to many lessons
- Embedded support for language learners
- Additional options for differentiated instruction
- Streamlined lesson steps, without losing any

Open Resources:

These showcases perfectly demonstrate the update.

- [Math](#)
- [ELA](#)

Updated Documents for 2025-26

While there are no new designated supports or accommodations for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, we have updated many of the commonly used resources and guides for the year ahead. Here are some of the most referenced documents available on the portal and CSDE webpage that will help Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs), Section 504 Teams, test coordinators, and educators plan for the year ahead and prepare for interim testing, if applicable.

- [Connecticut Summative Assessment System Policy Overview](#)

This resource outlines the general policies of the Connecticut State Department of Education for all state summative assessments that are administered to Connecticut public school students.

- [CSDE Assessment Guidelines](#)

This document is intended to provide guidance for Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations for Smarter Balanced, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAEELP), and the CT SAT School Day.

- [Assessment Resources for Planning and Placement and Section 504 Teams Quick Guide](#)

This resource provides PPTs and Section 504 Teams with information on accessibility features available on the State Summative Assessments for students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan.

- [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#)

Students who are English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) may benefit from using designated supports when participating on the Connecticut statewide assessments. These designated supports are intended as a language support for students who have limited English language skills, whether or not they are identified as EL/ML or EL/ML with a disability.

CT-SEDS and TIDE

The CSDE recently loaded K-12 student data from the Public School Information System (PSIS) into TIDE. This will allow districts to document designated supports in TIDE for students in the general education population (those students without Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans) who will participate in the optional interim assessments this fall and on summative assessments in spring 2025.

The CSDE also loaded the IDEA and Section 504 Plan demographic fields in TIDE for the following students:

- Those identified in the June 2025 PSIS Collection as IDEA; and
- Those identified in PSIS Registration testing demographics for Spring 2025 as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

This will enable (prior to district sign-off of Freeze Zero student demographic data in PSIS in October 2025) designated supports and accommodations planned for the student's current grade of enrollment in an implemented and finalized plan to sync with TIDE for use on the optional interim assessments. More information on the Freeze Zero PSIS load will follow later this fall. If accommodations were not planned for the current grade of enrollment, and the student is expected to participate in interim assessments this fall, the team should amend or reconvene to determine appropriate accessibility supports for the 2025-26 school year. If you find a discrepancy with a student's accommodations or designated supports, contact the student's Case Manager. All edits must be made through the amendment or reconvening process in the Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS). Supports for students with documented plans should never be manually entered (or batch uploaded) into TIDE. Please follow the guidance in the [Documenting Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE brochure](#) for more details about documenting accessibility supports before interim testing. Additional information is included in the [CT-SEDS to TIDE Designated Supports and Accommodations FAQ](#).

2025-2026 Secure Browser

The updated 2025-2026 Secure Browser and installation materials were recently made available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. Please work with your technology coordinators to ensure that testing devices are updated (and assistive technology is compatible with the Test Delivery Interface, if applicable) before administering the optional interim assessments. Refer to the Technology Guide for additional guidance on setting up test administrator and student devices and configuring networks. Note: The Secure Browser version used last school year will be retired and is now inoperable.

English Learner/Multilingual Learner Communications and Resources

The following webpages may be accessed to support students identified as ELs/MLs in Grades K-12:

- **LAS Links:**

[English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links](#) and the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#)

Important Dates for LAS Links

Event	Dates
LAS Links Testing Window	January 6 - March 6, 2026
ELAC Training	November 4, 9:00am-12:00pm November 5, 12:00pm-3:00pm November 6, 9:00am-12:00pm
IT Coordinator Training	October 30 @1:00 pm November 20 @1:00 pm
Accommodated Paper Materials Order Window	November 7, 2025 – February 6, 2026
Domain Exemption Window	November 7, 2025 – December 19, 2025

Please note, ELACs must submit the Exemption Form during the Domain Exemption Window.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) is administered to students in Grades K-12 who are identified in PSIS as ELs/MLs with an IEP who meet the eligibility criteria to participate in Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System. Part of the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process will include in the review, determination, completion, and verification of the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#) in CT-SEDS. Only students with the completed and verified [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#) in a finalized and implemented IEP in CT-SEDS will be rostered for CAAELP.

ELACs should work closely with PPTs to ensure students are correctly identified for either the standard English language proficiency assessment (LAS Links) with accommodations or, if eligible, the CAAELP within their finalized and implemented plans by the dates listed in the table below. This is to ensure correct rostering and placement within each assessment.

Important Dates for CAAELP

Event	Dates
CAAELP Testing Window	January 12-March 6, 2026
Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form completed in CT-SEDS for correct rostering of CAAELP	Finalized and Implemented IEP by December 22, 2025.
Early Stopping Rule (ESR): TEA follows guidance for ESR. If student meets eligibility, submit a copy of the completed SRC Administration Behavioral Notes and signed SRC and Early Stopping Rule Request and Attestation Form to District Administrator (DA)	December 1, 2025 – January 5, 2026
ESR Submission Window: Submit a copy of the completed SRC Administration Behavioral Notes and the ESR Request and Attestation Form via TIDE Forms	December 1, 2025-January 12, 2026
Domain Exemption Window	December 1, 2025-February 27, 2026

Please note, District Administrators (DAs in TIDE) must submit the SRC, ESR, and Domain Exemption Form.

Information and communications related to CAAELP can be obtained by going to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal [CAAELP Resource](#) page and the [CSDE CAAELP](#) page.

2025-26 State Assessment Calendar

Content Area(s)	Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window
English Language Proficiency	LAS Links	K-12	January 5 - March 6, 2026
English Language Proficiency	Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)	K-12	January 12 - March 6, 2026
English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics	Connecticut Smarter Balanced	3-8	March 23 - May 29, 2026
English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics	Connecticut SAT School Day	11	March 2 - April 30, 2026*
English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics	Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	3-8 and 11	March 23 - May 29, 2026
Literacy Universal Screening	Grades K-3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment	K-3	September 8 – October 17, 2025 December 8 – February 6, 2026 April 20 – June 5, 2026
Science	Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment	5, 8, and 11	February 2 - May 29, 2026 (Grade 11) March 23 - May 29, 2026 (Grades 5 and 8)
Science	Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS)	5, 8, and 11	Dates to upload to the DEI: March 23 - May 29, 2026 The CTAS can be administered all year.
Physical Fitness	Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	4, 6, 8, and once during high school	September 2, 2025 - May 29, 2026
Language, Literacy, Numeracy, Physical/Motor, Creative/Aesthetic, and Personal/Social	Kindergarten Entrance Inventory	Kindergarten	Snapshot Date: October 15, 2025 Submission Due Date: December 5, 2025

Register for Email Updates

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the CT Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

Student Assessment Email

Contact the Performance Office via email: ctstudentassessment@ct.gov