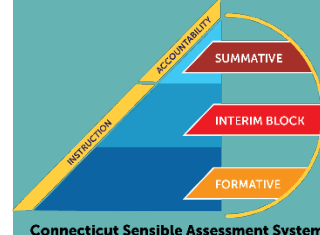


# Student Assessment News

## Connecticut State Department of Education

### Performance Office

September 2026



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## Welcome to the 2026-27 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 team anytime by phone or email. A full list of team members and contact information is available on [our website](#).

### District Contacts

Please verify that your district contacts (ELACs, K–3 Literacy Assessment Contacts, etc.) are correct for the 2026–27 school year in [EdSight](#). Your Contacts Manager Writer should be notified if changes are required.

### State Summative Assessment Results

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has released assessment results in [EdSight Public](#), including the Performance Index scores (DPI/SPI - Accountability Indicator #1) and Smarter Balanced growth results (Accountability Indicator #2). Complete Next Generation Accountability System results will be released later in the fall.

All Smarter Balanced achievement and growth results, as well as Connecticut SAT School Day, NGSS, and CTAA achievement results, are available in EdSight Secure. LAS Links [achievement](#), [mastery](#), and [growth](#) results are available on both EdSight Public and EdSight Secure.

### 2026–27 Secure Browser

Although the Secure Browser remains the same for the 2026-27 school year for all operating systems, please verify that it is downloaded to all testing devices. Students testing on Windows, MacOS and iPadOS may continue to use the same Secure Browsers used in 2025-26.

The ChromeOS Secure Browser requires an upgrade for secure testing in 2026-27. Details on how to upgrade the ChromeOS Secure Browser (PWA) for 2026-27 can be found in the [SecureTest PWA Browser Troubleshooting Guide](#). 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.

### TIDE Updates

#### TIDE User Accounts

All TIDE users are required to do a one-time password reset at the beginning of every school year. For security purposes, CAI automatically resets all user accounts at the beginning of each school year. Refer to Reactivate Your TIDE Account at the Beginning of the School Year in the [TIDE User Guide](#) for more information. District Administrators should review their district TIDE user accounts at the start of each school year to remove and update user information as applicable for the school year ahead.

## **Data Uploads from PSIS and Syncs from CT-SEDS**

K-12 student data from the Public School Information System (PSIS) was preloaded into TIDE on August 20, 2026. Additionally, demographic fields in TIDE were also preloaded for students identified in PSIS as IDEA in June 2026, and as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as of June 5, 2026.

This process enables 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 (before district sign-off of Freeze Zero student demographic data in PSIS in October 2026). 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 the plan or reconvene to determine appropriate accessibility supports for the 2026–27 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) and should never be manually entered or batch uploaded to TIDE. Additional information is included in the [CT-SEDS to TIDE Designated Supports and Accommodations FAQ](#).

Districts will need to manually enter or batch upload designated supports to TIDE for eligible students without an IEP or Section 504 Plan. These supports should be set in TIDE before interim and/or summative testing.

Please follow the guidance in the [Documenting Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE](#) brochure for more details about documenting accessibility supports.

## **Interim Assessments Are Live – New Interim Assessment Blocks**

For ELA, two new blocks are available in each grade spanning Grades 3–8 and high school:

- Word Meaning and Language Use (Informational) (Focused Interim Assessment Blocks)
- Word Meaning and Language Use (Literary) (Focused Interim Assessment Blocks)

The following IAB has also been added for Math:

- Grade 7 Math - Performance Task - Choosing a Superhero (Interim Assessment Blocks)

Additionally, 20 new items have been added to the NGSS interim assessments. This includes 8 item clusters and 12 stand-alone items across the three grade bands. There is no plan to remove any current NGSS interim items from the bank.

Supporting Resources:

- [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Overview](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blueprints](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Test Administration Manual \(TAM\)](#)
- [Next Generation Science Standards Interim Assessment Quick Guide](#)

## K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessments

### K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment

The K-3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment Beginning of Year (BOY) benchmark window opens on September 8, 2026, and closes on October 16, 2026. Please visit the [K-3 Literacy Assessment webpage](#) for additional information.

### K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment Training

Registration is now open for the 2026-27 K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment Training Sessions. These sessions, presented by each assessment vendor, are intended to provide guidance to staff that administer and/or support the assessment. Additional information is located on the [K–3 Literacy Assessment Training page](#).

#### K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment 2026-27 Training Schedule

| Vendor     | K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment<br>Session Registration Link | Date and Time                          |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| easyCBM    | <a href="#">Session 1: Administration Overview 2026-27</a>               | Mon., September 14, 2026, 3–4 p.m.     |
| Acadience  | <a href="#">Session 1: Administration Overview 2026-27</a>               | Tues., September 15, 2026, 3–4 p.m.    |
| Amplify    | <a href="#">Session 1: Administration Overview 2026-27</a>               | Wed., September 16, 2026, 3–4:30 p.m.  |
| aimswbPlus | <a href="#">Session 1: Administration Overview 2026-27</a>               | Mon., September 21, 2026, 3–4:30 p.m.  |
| easyCBM    | <a href="#">Session 2: Individual Student Reports</a>                    | Mon., October 19, 2026, 3–4 p.m.       |
| Acadience  | <a href="#">Session 2: Individual Student Reports</a>                    | Tues., October 20, 2026, 3–4 p.m.      |
| Amplify    | <a href="#">Session 2: Individual Student Reports</a>                    | Wed., October 21, 2026, 3–4:30 p.m.    |
| aimswbPlus | <a href="#">Session 2: Individual Student Reports</a>                    | Thurs., October 22, 2026, 3–4:30 p.m.  |
| easyCBM    | <a href="#">Session 3: Leveraging Data to Increase Outcomes</a>          | Mon., February 22, 2027, 3–4 p.m.      |
| Acadience  | <a href="#">Session 3: Leveraging Data to Increase Outcomes</a>          | Tues., February 23, 2027, 3–4 p.m.     |
| Amplify    | <a href="#">Session 3: Leveraging Data to Increase Outcomes</a>          | Wed., February 24, 2027, 3–4:30 p.m.   |
| aimswbPlus | <a href="#">Session 3: Leveraging Data to Increase Outcomes</a>          | Thurs., February 25, 2027, 3–4:30 p.m. |
| easyCBM    | <a href="#">Session 4: K-3 Literacy Assessment Data</a>                  | Mon., May 24, 2027, 3–4 p.m.           |
| Acadience  | <a href="#">Session 4: K-3 Literacy Assessment Data</a>                  | Tues., May 25, 2027, 3–4 p.m.          |
| Amplify    | <a href="#">Session 4: K-3 Literacy Assessment Data</a>                  | Wed., May 26, 2027, 3–4:30 p.m.        |
| aimswbPlus | <a href="#">Session 4: K-3 Literacy Assessment Data</a>                  | Thurs., May 27, 2027, 3–4:30 p.m.      |

## English Language Proficiency Assessments

Collaboration between English learner/multilingual learner (EL/ML) educators, English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELACs), Special Education teams, and Section 504 teams is key to determining if any kindergarten or newly arrived/enrolled students in grades K-12 have been identified as EL/ML. These students will take the English Language Proficiency Assessment (LAS Links) or the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAELP) in the winter of 2027. Educators should collaborate early within the school year to:

- Review Kindergarten or newly arrived/enrolled students who have been identified as EL/ ML.
- Schedule Planning and Placement Team (PPT) or Section 504 Team meetings for new EL/ML students, ensure PSIS and CT-SEDS are updated and that the correct designations and supports are in place before the testing windows.
- Review ELP designation and the selected accessibility supports for the current grade level.
- Ensure PPTs determine which ELP assessment is most appropriate for the dually identified student. Teams may refer to the [Determining Student Participation on Connecticut Statewide Summative Assessments](#) document to assist with these discussions and the selection of accommodations applicable for each assessment.
- Ensure accessibility features and ELP assessment determination are finalized and implemented within plans before the opening of the ELP assessment windows. Refer to the [LAS Links Accessibility Resources](#) and the [CAAELP Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) for more information.

### Important English Language Proficiency Dates

It is important that ELACs work closely with case managers and PPTs early in the school year 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 especially important for students who are new arrivals or are newly identified. This is to ensure correct rostering and placement within each assessment.

Important Dates for CAAELP

| Event                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Window                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form completed in CT-SEDS for correct rostering of CAAELP                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Fully Implemented IEP by December 22, 2026                 |
| Testing Window Dates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | January 11–March 5, 2027                                   |
| <a href="#">Early Stopping Rule</a> (ESR): TEA follows guidance for ESR. If the student meets eligibility, submit a copy of the completed Student Response Check Administration Behavioral Notes and the signed <a href="#">Early Stopping Rule Request and Attestation Form</a> to District Administrator (DA). | TEA Submission to DA:<br>No later than January 5, 2027     |
| DA ESR Submission Window: Submit a copy of the completed SRC Administration Behavioral Notes and the signed ESR Request and Attestation Form via TIDE Forms.                                                                                                                                                     | DA Submission into TIDE:<br>No later than January 11, 2027 |
| Domain Exemption Window                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | November 30, 2026–February 26, 2027                        |

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

## Important Dates for LAS Links Events

| Event                                | Window                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Testing Window Dates                 | January 5–March 5, 2027                                                                                                                                                    |
| ELAC Training <sup>1</sup>           | <a href="#">November 3, 2026, 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.</a><br><a href="#">November 4, 2026, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</a><br><a href="#">November 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</a> |
| IT Coordinator Training <sup>2</sup> | October 26, 2026 @1:00–2:30 p.m.<br>November 19, 2026 @1:00–2:30 p.m.                                                                                                      |
| Domain Exemption Window <sup>3</sup> | November 30, 2026–February 26, 2027                                                                                                                                        |

### LAS Links

#### 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](#)
- [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#)

### LAS Links Accommodations

New LAS Links Accommodations have been added for 2026–27 administration and are updated on the District and State Testing tile in CT-SEDS. They include:

- LAS Links Speech-to-Text (STT) for all Domains (Embedded Accommodation)
- LAS Links Text-to-Speech (TTS) for the Reading Domain (Directions and Item Prompts Only) and Writing Domain (Stimuli and Item Prompts) (Embedded Accommodation)
- LAS Links Native Language Reader Directions (TAM Only) for all Domains (Non-Embedded Accommodation)

These new accommodations are for eligible students who have a determined and documented need within their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

For additional information please see:

- [LAS Links Reader Options Table](#)
- [LAS Links Accommodation Correlation to Smarter Balanced and NGSS Accessibility Supports](#)
- [LAS Links Accessibility Chart](#)

<sup>1</sup>It is expected that ELACs attend one in-person session. This training will provide detailed information related to the administration of Form F in 2026-27 and will ensure the understanding of updated policies and procedures.

<sup>2</sup> Invitations will be sent to all district IT Coordinators prior to the October and November training sessions.

<sup>3</sup> Please note, ELACs must submit the Exemption Form during the Domain Exemption Window. Refer to the [LAS Links webpage](#) for additional information. Late Submissions will not be processed.

## CSDE EL/ML Contacts

For questions and concerns, please contact:

**EL/ML Identification, Standards, and Programs:** Megan Alubicki Flick [Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov)

**EL/ML Identification, Standards, and Programs:** Maribel Olivero [Maribel.Olivero@ct.gov](mailto:Maribel.Olivero@ct.gov)

**EL/ML Data, Accountability, and Growth Model:** Michael Sabados [Michael.Sabados@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Sabados@ct.gov)

**EL/ML Assessment and Appeals:** Cristi Alberino [Cristi.Alberino@ct.gov](mailto:Cristi.Alberino@ct.gov)

**EL/ML Accommodations and CAAELP:** Katie Seifert [Katherine.Seifert@ct.gov](mailto:Katherine.Seifert@ct.gov)

## Updated Documents for 2026–27

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 PPTs, Section 504 Teams, test coordinators, and educators plan for the year ahead and prepare for interim testing, if applicable.

- [Connecticut's Summative Assessment System - Assessment Policy Overview](#)
- [Accessibility Considerations](#)
- [Accessibility Chart](#)
- [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#)
- [Assessment Resources for Planning and Placement and Section 504 Teams Quick Guide](#)

## Alt Assessment Eligibility Updates in CT-SEDS

The required online training for CAAELP and the CTAA/CTAS will be available this October. DA's should identify which teachers will be responsible for administering alternate assessments and ensure that the teacher is assigned a TEA User Role in TIDE. Please refer to the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training – Overview for District Administrators](#) for more information.

Effective this fall 2026, the online training for teachers administering the CAAELP is also available on the same platform located on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). Training will be available in October, and teachers should complete training well in advance of the January testing window. For more information, please visit the [CAAELP Resources](#) page.

## 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](mailto:ctstudentassessment@ct.gov).

## 2026-27 State Assessment Calendar

| Content Area(s)                                                                       | Assessment                                                                | Grade(s)                             | Testing Window                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical Fitness                                                                      | Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment                                   | 4, 6, 8, and once during high school | August 31, 2026 - May 28, 2027                                                                |
| K–3 Literacy Universal Screening                                                      | Grades K–3 Literacy Universal Screening Assessment                        | K-3                                  | Sept. 8–Oct. 16, 2026 - BOY<br>Dec. 7, 2026–Feb. 5, 2027 - MOY<br>April 19–June 4, 2027 - EOY |
| Language, Literacy, Numeracy, Physical/Motor, Creative/Aesthetic, and Personal/Social | Kindergarten Entrance Inventory                                           | Kindergarten                         | <b>Snapshot Date:</b><br>October 1, 2026<br><b>Submission Due Date:</b><br>December 4, 2026   |
| English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing               | LAS Links                                                                 | K-12                                 | January 4–March 5, 2027                                                                       |
| English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing               | Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) | K-12                                 | January 11–March 5, 2027                                                                      |
| English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics                                             | Connecticut SAT School Day                                                | 11                                   | March 1–April 30, 2027 <sup>4</sup>                                                           |
| Science                                                                               | Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment                       | 5, 8, and 11                         | February 1–May 28, 2027 (Grade 11)<br>March 22–May 28, 2027 (Grades 5 and 8)                  |
| English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics                                             | Connecticut Smarter Balanced                                              | 3-8                                  | March 22–May 28, 2027                                                                         |
| English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics                                             | Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)                                   | 3-8 and 11                           | March 22–May 28, 2027                                                                         |
| Science                                                                               | Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS)                           | 5, 8, and 11                         | The CTAS can be administered all year.<br><b>Upload Dates:</b><br>March 22–May 28, 2027       |

<sup>4</sup> Within the testing window, schools can choose their primary and make-up test dates.