CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Performance Office

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

April 24, 2017

NEW Summative Assessment Updates

State Assessment Windows

The chart below lists the state assessment windows. The administration dates run until the end of May, except for the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)/Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science test, which concludes on April 28.

State Assessment	Testing Window	Resources
CMT/CAPT Science	March 27 - April 28	Resources for Science Test Administration
CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist	Upload Dates: March 27 - April 28	Resources for Skills Checklist Science Upload
Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	March 27 - May 26	Resources for CTAA Test Administration
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 27 - May 26	Resources for Smarter Balanced Test Administration
Connecticut SAT School Day	Makeup Dates: April 25 and 26	Resources for Connecticut SAT School Day Test Administration

2017 Next Generation Science Assessment Pilot Test Information

The test window for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment Pilot, is from May 1-26, 2017. These resources are now available:

NGSS Sample Items are available at the elementary-, middle- and high-school levels. It is highly recommended that students take a sample-item set prior to taking the pilot test, so that they can become familiar with the new formats of some of these test items.

A guide, How to Access and Score NGSS Sample Items, is also available to provide instructions on accessing and using the NGSS sample-item set. Students will need approximately 20-30 minutes to complete the items.

A Next Generation Science Standards Assessment Pilot Test Administration Manual is available for Test Administrators.

Happy Spring!

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CMT/CAPT
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day

| NEW | **Summative Assessment Updates** |

Testing Students Identified with a Generic/Other Code in PSIS

Connecticut Public Schools are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) identified with a "Generic/Other" code for their Facility One. Testing these students would be applicable even if these students are enrolled in out-of-state schools or are enrolled in state non-approved schools. For these students, the Testing/Reporting District is the PSIS Reporting District, so that is the district that will be able to test the student in Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). If a Connecticut public school is responsible to test a student because they have been assigned with this code, please refer to guidance in the **Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities** resource.

CMT and CAPT Science Quick Guides

The CMT and CAPT Science quick guides for the upcoming online test administration have been added to the Connecticut Comprehensive program portal. These quick guides provide easy, step-by-step instructions on how test administrators can access and assist students in completing the CMT and CAPT Science online. The guides can be used as a supplement to, but should **NOT** replace the 2017 CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration Manual.

Keep in mind that the CAPT Science includes two test sessions, which may be administered on the same day or two separate days. Page 3 of the quick guide provides instructions for:

- approving students to complete session 2 on the same day as session 1; and
- for starting a new test session, if session 2 is administered on a different day.

There is also a quick guide for CMT Science for test administrators who may need extra assistance in navigating the Test Delivery System and Test Administration interface. The quick guides can be used as a supplement to, but should **NOT** replace the 2017 CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration Manual. Please contact the AIR Helpdesk at 844-202-7583 with any questions.

Correction to the CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration Manual

American Institutes for Research (AIR) has posted an ERRATA on the portal. This corrects two errors in the teacher instructions that occurs on page 21 and 22 of the 2016-17 *CMT/CAPT Science: Test Administration Manual for Online Testing*. These errors have to do with instructions to the students. The first error incorrectly requires students to answer items in order before being allowed to continue. The science test sessions have no such restriction, so this direction should not be read to students. The second error instructs students to **PAUSE** upon completion of the science test session. Because the science test is a timed test, students need to **SUBMIT** their test when the session is over, rather than **PAUSE** their test. Tests that are **PAUSED** will be **SUBMITTED** automatically at the end of the testing day. These errors have been corrected in the online version of the manual. Please contact Jeff Greig if you have any questions.

NEW | **Special Populations Updates**

Students in the Public School Information System Who Attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities

Connecticut public school districts are responsible for testing students registered in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or in-state non-approved facilities. Information on how to administer the CMT/CAPT Science (including Skills Checklist), Smarter Balanced assessment and the CTAA may be accessed in Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities. Districts with Grade 11 students who attend out-of-state facilities or in-state non-approved facilities have already been notified by the CSDE about testing those students. Please note: Only individuals with the user role of District Administrator (DA) can access out-of-state students or students attending non-approved facilities in TIDE. Only the DA can enter a CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) or supports and/or accommodations for these students in TIDE.

District administrators should contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837 or Joe Amenta at 860-713 6855 with the following information to obtain required materials for these students.

SASID	Name of Out-of-State or Non-Approved School
District	Name of Contact at Out-of-State or Non-Approved School
Student Grade	Phone of Contact at Out-of-State or Non-Approved School
District Administrator (DA) e-mail	E-mail of Contact at Out-of-State or Non-Approved School
Tests being administered	Address of Out-of-State or Non-Approved School

CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science

The deadline to submit all CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science is **Friday, April 28.** District administers (DA) are asked to monitor progress of their teachers in the submission process. As a reminder the teacher enters the test on the AIR Data Entry Interface. The DAs can look up the completion rate of the tests by following the directions on the ACCESSING PARTICIPATION REPORTS.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Secure Directions for Test Administration

The CTAA secure Directions for Test Administration (DTA) are available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal for individuals with the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) or District Administrator (DA). These DTAs are required for administration of all CTAA English language arts and math grade-specific tests. The brochure How to Access and Download the Secure Connecticut Alternate Assessment Directions for Test Administration is available for your reference to help with downloading these documents.

Additional Guidance for the CTAA Early Stopping Rule

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment early Stopping Rule (ESR) is intended for very few students who are not able to demonstrate an observable response in any way to the alternate assessment test items, and therefore, are not able to participate fully in the CTAA. Additional information is provided in the CTAA Test Administration Manual. New guidance has been posted on the CSDE portal and student assessment Web site describing the information required. Please see Guidance About Students Who Qualify For The Connecticut Alternate Assessment Early Stopping Rule.

 Special Populations Updates

Late Submission of CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility and Learner Characteristics Inventory

The CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility and Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) was due by March 17, in order to register an eligible student for alternate assessments (CTAA and/or the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science). If a student is newly identified for this assessment, or if a teacher did not submit the LCI by the deadline date it may be entered into the DEI now. Once the LCI is submitted the student State Assigned Student Identification Number (SASID) **must** be e-mailed to janet.stuck@ct.gov or joseph.amenta@ct.gov so the alternate assessment indicator can be activated. Until this indicator is activated, only standard assessments will be available for the student.

Text-to-Speech Julie Voice License Update (WINDOWS ONLY)

NeoSpeech and AIR provide the Julie voice pack for English text-to-speech user for your students to use on Windows machines with the online tests provided by AIR's Test Delivery System. The license agreement between NeoSpeech and AIR was recently renewed and will extend through 2020. However, the current license files associated with the voice packs will expire on May 3, 2017. Therefore, by May 3, 2017, districts will need to copy a new license file to the appropriate folder on Windows machines used for student testing. Districts do not need to re-install the voice pack itself if it is already installed; they only need to update the license file, or "verification.txt" file.

The new verification.txt files will be posted in TIDE at the same location the voice pack(s) is/are posted now. The complete voice pack package will also be updated to include the new verification.txt file for anyone installing the entire voice pack from scratch. Separate instructions for installing the new verification.txt file are provided, but general users will follow the same steps they did when they installed the verification.txt file initially.

In short, if the Julie voice packs are used for student testing, the existing verification.txt file(s) should be replaced with the new verification.txt file(s) on Windows machines before May 3, 2017. If the files are not updated, the Julie and Violeta voice packs will default to demo versions.

Please note: this is only for those who use Julie Voice Pack on the Windows machines. This does not affect other devices such as Chromebooks, iPads, Linux, Androids or Macs.

Instructions for replacing license agreement for Julie Voice:

1. Go to TIDE under: download the new verification.txt by clicking:

2. Save to your desktop.

3. Open the folder that contains the old verification.txt by clicking one of the links below:

Most Windows PC use:
   C:\Program Files (x86)\VW\VT\Julie\M16-SAPI5\data-common\verify

Some use:
   C:\Program Files\VW\VT\Julie\M16-SAPI5\data-common\verify\

4. Copy the new verification.txt file from your desktop to the folder you have open that contains the old verification.txt file.

Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE–Related Assessments

It is important for District Administrators and Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators to understand the ongoing relationship between the PSIS and the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). Accurate reporting of individual student status at the time of testing in the PSIS Registration Module is the only way to ensure accurate reporting of the annual statewide test results.

District Administrators will need to work with their District PSIS Coordinators to ensure that accurate student information is being reported in the PSIS Registration Module, and subsequently in TIDE. The PSIS Coordinators should make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly in the PSIS Registration Module. During the summative test window (March 27—May 26) for CMT/CAPT Science, Smarter Balanced, and their related alternate assessments, changes will appear in TIDE the day after those changes are made in the PSIS.

PSIS Registration Module

Any changes to a student's status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The CSDE requires the following data from districts on five important data fields. These data fields are:

- English Learner (EL) Status;
- Special Education (SPED) Status;
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status;
- Recently Arrived EL Status; and
- 504 Status (Status must be noted even if a student is not receiving Accommodations/Designated Supports.)

These values must show the student's status at the time of testing. District PSIS Coordinators may now enter up-to-date data for these fields in the PSIS Registration Module. These values will be reflected in TIDE.

The PSIS information reflected in TIDE is for all of the following assessments:

- Smarter Balanced;
- CTAA;
- CMT/CAPT Science; and
- CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science.

Student demographic values will be saved and the fields locked in PSIS **on May 26, 2017**. Students who enroll from outside the Connecticut public schools after May 22, 2017, will not be required to take the Smarter Balanced assessments.

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Transfer Scenarios and Testing on the Connecticut SAT School Day

The *Connecticut SAT School Day Guidance for Testing Students Who Transfer into Schools* provides guidance about testing students who enrolled in your school between January 27 and April 13, 2017. Please review this document to ensure that you are accounting for all Grade 11 students who must be tested. All Grade 11 students in PSIS who were supposed to be tested on April 5, and were not, should be tested on the makeup date even if in a new school. Contact Michelle Rosado if you have any questions.

NEW English Learner Updates

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment Participation

Unlike in previous years, the CSDE will not collect student test information on those students who completed testing after the testing window closed on March 10, 2017. Only those students who are tested during the testing window will be reported. As described during training, if you had students during the testing window who were not able to access the speaking subtest because they are non-verbal, or the listening subtest because they are deaf or hearing impaired, please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837. Additionally, if the English learner would qualify for the alternate assessment if it were available, please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837.

English Language Proficiency Assessment Results Reminder

The End of Year Assessment: LAS Links Form D was used for the end of the year 2016-17 assessment. The testing window was from January 3 to March 10, 2017. All online tests are complete and paper and pencil tests have been returned for scoring. **Districts will receive an Online Reporting System (ORS) welcome e-mail after April 24, 2017,** to access student scores.

NEW Kindergarten Assessment Update

A May 2, 2016, letter from the Commissioner indicated that the CSDE would be implementing a new Kindergarten assessment. At this time there is no timeline for the implementation of the new assessment. Districts must continue to administer and report data from the legacy kindergarten entrance inventory. If there are any questions, please contact Michelle Rosado.

2016-17 Important Dates

Event	Dates
The secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year must be downloaded for all 2016-17 online test administrations	Currently available
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window (ICA and IAB) and Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring System	October 18, 2016-June 9, 2017
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment Window	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
CMT/CAPT Science and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, April 28, 2017
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
Connecticut SAT School Day	Makeup dates: April 25 and April 26, 2017

Register for email updates

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

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