



Summative Assessment Updates

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Happy Holidays!



District Test Coordinator Workshops

District Test Coordinator Workshops are scheduled for January 18, 19, and 20, 2017, at the Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) in New Britain. There will be four sessions to choose from and each session will repeat the same content. **Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for English language arts and mathematics.** District Administrators will be provided with information to support training School Coordinators and Test Administrators. Registration is limited to **two** attendees per district. Information about registration is included on the [AIR Web site](#).

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Growth Results

On December 8, 2016, the CSDE released aggregate results from the growth model for the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics summative assessments through [EdSight](#). A [press release](#) gives specifics. The corresponding student-level data for districts are available through the "Downloads" section of PSIS Registration. The data are contained in two separate files: one for English Language Arts, and another for Mathematics. They can be accessed by district's PSIS coordinators. These data will remain available for download until Friday, December 30, 2016.

The growth results for all students and the high needs group in each school and district will serve as the basis for Indicator 2 in the 2015-16 Next Generation Accountability reports that are scheduled to be released in January 2017.

For more information about Connecticut's student growth model including a narrated PowerPoint presentation, please visit our [Web site](#). For questions regarding the growth results, please contact [Renee Savoie](#). For questions regarding PSIS, please contact [Kendra Shakir](#).

Science Assessment Transition Timeline

A December 13, 2016, [memo to Superintendents](#) details the plans for the Science Assessment Transition Timeline. Please contact [Jeff Greig](#) if you have any questions.



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Summative Assessments Updates

Smarter Balanced Administration

There are no changes to the 2016-17 Connecticut Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment sessions. Like last year, the 2017 assessments include Computer Adaptive Tests (CAT) for math and English language arts and a Performance Task (PT) for mathematics only. The Classroom Activity is **no longer** part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Summative Assessment Guidance for Bring Your Own Device and Online Assessments

The CSDE recently created [Guidance for Bring Your Own Device and Online Assessments](#) for delivering the Smarter Balanced, CMT/CAPT Science and/or the Connecticut Alternate Assessment. This policy is intended for districts that *may* choose to allow students to use their own devices for *state summative online assessments*.

PSIS and Summative Testing

Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE-Related Assessments

It is important for District Test Coordinators and Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators to understand the ongoing relationship between the PSIS and the Test Information and 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 Test Coordinators 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 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.

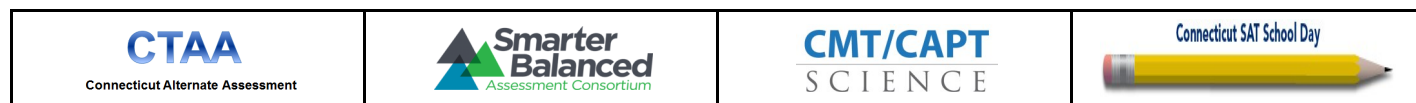
PSIS Registration Module

Any changes to a student's status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. **By February 21, 2017**, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will require 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
- Section 504 Status.

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.

For the sake of accurate test-score reporting district PSIS Coordinators may opt either to allow the CSDE to update the EL, SPED and FRL status in PSIS Registration with the values reported in the January 2017 PSIS collection *or* to update these values based on what is in the Registration Module since the January collection. District PSIS Coordinators will be notified by the CSDE via email in early February 2017 of a choice between the following **two** options:



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PSIS and Summative Testing

- **Keep the January data.** Districts that have not, by mid-February, made any changes to these fields in PSIS Registration since the January collection can opt to simply use the January 2017 collection status.
- **Maintain district changes after the January collection.** Districts that have made changes to these data fields since the January collection may opt to maintain their changes in PSIS Registration, and **not allow** the CSDE to update the status from the January 2017 PSIS collection.

In either case, PSIS information will then be reflected in TIDE for all of the following assessments.

- Smarter Balanced
- CTAA
- CMT/CAPT Science
- 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. These students will not be uploaded into TIDE.

PSIS and the Connecticut SAT School Day

Even though the Connecticut SAT School Day is not related to TIDE, PSIS demographic values should also be updated, as necessary to indicate a student's status at the time of testing for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Accurate reporting for these students in PSIS will help ensure accurate statewide test reporting for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Additionally, accuracy is very important since students will be registered for the April 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day based on the PSIS database.

For any student who is participating in the April 5, 2017, Connecticut SAT School Day administration, the PSIS **Registration Module** should indicate their correct demographic status **at the time of that testing**. Likewise, for students who are participating instead in the makeup dates for the Connecticut SAT School Day (April 25 or 26, 2017), accurate status **at the time of that test** should be reflected in the PSIS **Registration Module**.

***Please note:** the grade recorded in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated.*

PSIS and LAS LINKS

From January 3, through March 10, 2017, the LAS Links assessment will be administered to all English Learners (ELs). In order for a district's English Learners to actually take the online LAS Links assessment, they *must* be registered with the district and identified as EL in the PSIS **Registration Module**. Once a week during the LAS Links testing window, the CSDE will transfer a data file that identifies each district's ELs to the LAS Links publisher Data Recognition Corporation | CTB (DRC). Only students who have been identified as ELs in PSIS, and therefore, have been in a data file transferred from the CSDE to DRC will have access to the online LAS Links test. Because uploading will occur only once a week, there may be a lag between an EL's registration in PSIS and their access to the online LAS Links test.

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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Test Center Supervisor Training

Connecticut SAT Test Center Supervisor training sessions will be held on the dates and times listed below at ITBD in New Britain. Participants will be provided with information regarding policies and procedures associated with the 2017 administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day to Grade 11 students. Session dates and times are listed below.

January 17, 2017, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.	January 17, 2017, from 12:30-3:30 p.m.	January 18, 2017, from 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Register Here	Register Here	Register Here

Instructions for Entering Accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School Day

Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations Chart

	College Reportable Accommodations	Connecticut State-Allowed Accommodations for State Accountability
Students with Disabilities	Used for accountability and college admission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braille Booklets • Text-to-Speech for all test content (CB MP3 audio) • Large Print Booklet • Color Overlay • Noise Buffering • Magnification Device • Computer Response • Scribe • Speech-to-Text (CB Assistive Technology) • Specialized Calculator • Abacus • Multiplication table • Time Extension • Separate Setting • American Sign Language (ASL) - test directions only • Signed Exact English - test directions and test content 	Used for accountability purposes only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Language - test content • Sign Language – student responses
English Learners	Used for accountability and college admission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Directions in Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Polish, Mandarin, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Vietnamese - No need to request, download available • Native Language Reader – test directions only-- No need to request • Bilingual Dictionary Word-to-Word Translation- No need to request 	Used for accountability purposes only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Extension

Entering College Reportable Accommodations

Requests: Schools should begin entering accommodations for students now. The deadline for entering accommodations is **February 15, 2017**, to ensure test materials can be shipped for the April 5, 2017, administration.

1. New accommodations requests: These requests should be entered into College Board’s secure [SSD Online system](#) by Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Coordinators. Many accommodations requests will be automatically approved based on the student information submitted. For some requests, the system may automatically request additional documentation as a result of a College Board software issue. **If this message appears, do not provide additional documentation.** For the Connecticut SAT School Day, additional student documentation is NOT re-

quired. If you are prompted by a message requesting additional documentation, simply upload the [Connecticut SAT SSD Form](#) (used only for April 5, and April 25 and 26, 2017, tests) into the SSD Online Dashboard to override the system. This will move the request into the Document Review status.

Additionally, you may be asked to check that you have obtained parental consent. Parental consent is not required for the Connecticut SAT School Day. The student’s IEP or 504 Plan act as parental consent. Please check the Parental Consent box during the completion of the information in the SSD online system.

The status of the request will change to Document Review. Once approved, the SSD Online Dashboard will reflect the approval status. The SSD Coordinators should check the SSD Online Dashboard regularly.

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2. **Previously submitted accommodations requests:** Check the SSD Online Dashboard for the status of each request.

“Document Review” Status: For requests that are in the Document Review status, the CSDE and College Board (CB) will be working to review these requests. There is no action required by districts. If further information is required, the CSDE will contact districts directly. Once approved, the SSD Online Dashboard will reflect the approval status. The SSD Coordinators should check the SSD Online Dashboard regularly.

“Awaiting Documentation” Status: If this message appears, a system override will be required to correct an issue with CB’s software. Additional student documentation is **NOT** required. Upload the [Connecticut SAT SSD Form](#) (used only for April 5, and April 25 and 26, 2017, tests) into the SSD Online Dashboard to override the system. This will move the request into the “Document Review” status. Once approved, the SSD Online Dashboard will reflect the approval status. The SSD Coordinators should check the SSD Online Dashboard regularly.

3. **Previously Declined Accommodation Requests:** For accommodation requests that have been declined in the past, you should reopen these, if still applicable for the student for the April 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day administration so that students have access to all accommodations listed in their IEP or 504 Plans. Additional student documentation is not required. You will need to reopen the review process from your SSD Online Dashboard:
- a. Locate the student’s name;
 - b. Select “options;”
 - c. Click “Change Request;” and
 - d. Print, complete, and fax in the change request form for the case to College Board’s secure electronic document system which is accessible only by SSD administrators and the College Board Clinical Team. In transmitting the change request form to College Board, District SSD Coordinators or other authorized District personnel should use a secure fax machine or ensure that the form and any copies are promptly removed from the fax machine after transmission.

The status of the request will change to Document Review and once approved, the SSD Online Dashboard will reflect the approval status.

4. **Entering Connecticut State Allowed Accommodations:** Accommodations requests for Connecticut State Allowed Accommodations should be entered beginning on **March 6, 2017, and be completed by March 31, 2017**. All requests should be submitted via the Connecticut-Specific SSD Online system using the link in the upper left hand corner of the SSD Online System. Requests are automatically approved and no documentation is required.

More information about accommodations for students on the Connecticut SAT School Day can be found on our [Web site](#).

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Registration for the Connecticut SAT School Day

The registration process for Grade 11 students taking the Connecticut SAT School Day will be done differently this year. There will be no paper registration. All Grade 11 students who are included in the state's PSIS will be automatically registered with the College Board to take the April 5, 2017, Connecticut SAT School Day. Please make sure your district's PSIS Coordinator keeps up-to-date with your student information. More details will be provided soon.

English Learners and the Connecticut SAT School Day

In a recent [press release](#), the CSDE announced that EL students who use word-to-word bilingual glossaries on the 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day will now receive a college reportable score. A list of approved word-to-word bilingual glossaries will be posted to our Web site soon. Additionally, in school year **2017-18**, EL students who use extended time will receive a college reportable score. More information about supports for EL students on the Connecticut SAT School Day can be found on our [Web site](#).



Special Populations Updates

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Results Available

On November 10, 2016, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) Results for English language arts/literacy and mathematics were released electronically through the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Online Reporting System (ORS). Individuals with the appropriate permission level may access them. Districts should have received two paper copies of the CTAA Individual Student Reports in addition to the *Connecticut Alternate Assessment Report Brochure for Parents*. One copy of the individual student report should be maintained in the student file. The second copy should be provided to parents/guardians with the provided brochure.

The [2016 Guide for CTAA Score Report Interpretation](#) has been developed to support appropriate use of the CTAA student reports. Additional resources related to the CTAA are located on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal in the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Resources](#) card. Some of these include the [CTAA Mathematics Performance Level Descriptors](#) and the [CTAA English Language Arts/Literacy Performance Level Descriptors](#), as well as the [Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System](#).



Special Populations Updates

Opening of Data Entry Interface

The Data Entry Interface (DEI) application in TIDE is now open. Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) should submit the [CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) prior to March 17, 2017 in the DEI to register their students for participation in either alternate assessment. A paper copy of the [LCI](#) may be downloaded.

New Resources Available for Alternate Assessments

The [2017 Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) Test Administration Manual](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This manual provides information about policies and procedures for TEAs and School and District Coordinators to prepare for the administration of the 2017 Connecticut Alternate Assessment for English language arts and mathematics.

[CTAA Assessing Students who are Blind, Deaf or Deaf Blind; Additional Guidance for Test Administration](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This guidance document provides additional guidance for administering the CTAA and is intended to be used in conjunction with the required, secure CTAA Directions for Test Administration (DTA). The guidance includes tasks to complete before, during and after the assessment, strategies to enhance access to the CTAA, and appendices with information for accessing the Open-Response (OR) Foundational Reading items in Grades 3 and 4 and additional resources for TEAs working with students who are Blind, Deaf, or Deaf Blind.

[Student Response Check for Paper Administration](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The online form of the CTAA Student Response Check (SRC) is available in the Test Delivery System. The SRC is a task that needs to be completed prior to testing by the TEA to evaluate a student's response capabilities. This content-neutral task provides an opportunity to observe and confirm the student's mode of response.

[Connecticut Accessing Participation Reports: CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\) Brochure](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This document provides instructions for how to extract participation reports for the CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & LCI in TIDE. Submission of the LCI is required for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities prior to administering the following alternate assessments: CTAA for English language arts and mathematics, the CMT Skills Checklist Science, and the CAPT Skills Checklist Science. Reviewing these participation reports can ensure teachers and administrators have registered students for either alternate assessment by tracking the LCI and Skills Checklist Science submissions.

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[How to Access the Data Entry interface \(DEI\) Brochure](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The document provides instructions describing how to access the DEI in order to submit the CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & LCI and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science. The submission of the LCI is required prior to administering either alternate assessment (CTAA or CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science).

Alternate Assessment System Training

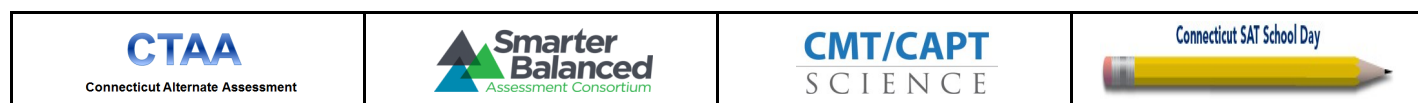
Any teacher administering an alternate assessment must complete and pass the CSDE provided required training prior to test administration. [The 2016-17 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#) continues to be available as an online course. This training qualifies participants to administer either alternate assessment for a three year period, therefore individuals who passed the course in 2014-15, 2015-16 or 2016-17 are eligible to administer the CTAA and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science in 2017. District Administrators may access the list of Trained Teachers in TIDE.

Important Dates for Alternate Assessments

Alternate Assessment	Description	Date
CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist	Science Grades 5, 8 and 10	Upload Dates: March 27-April 28, 2017
Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	English language arts & Mathematics Grades 3-8 and 11	Testing Window March 27-May 26, 2017
Deadline for Submission of CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI)	Registers eligible students for participation in Alternate Assessments	March 17, 2017
Opening of Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Application in TIDE used to enter CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist	December 13, 2016

New Designated Support

[Simplified test directions](#) is a designated support allowable across all grades on Smarter Balanced assessments. Designated Supports can be provided to any student so long as an informed educator or group of educators determines it is appropriate. Students with difficulties in auditory processing, short-term memory, attention, or decoding may benefit from having test directions simplified for them. This designated support may require testing in a separate setting to avoid distracting other test takers.



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Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Updates

Interim Assessment Webinars

The last webinar in the Interim Assessment Webinar series is scheduled for **January 19, 2017, from 3:45-4:45 p.m.** A description of this webinar and how to register is included in the [Interim Assessment Webinar flyer](#). Information about the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment is available on our [Web site](#). E-mail [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) in the Bureau of Student Assessment for more information.

[Webinar One Recording](#): What's New on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

[Webinar Two Recording](#): An Overview of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

[Webinar Three Recording](#): An Overview of the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts/Literacy Interim Assessments 101

[Webinar Four Recording](#): An Overview of the Smarter Balanced Mathematics Interim Assessments 101

Updates on English Learners

English Language Proficiency Testing

The Every Student Succeeds Act (Sec. 1111.i) requires that all English Learners be assessed annually with an English language proficiency (ELP) assessment. The annual ELP testing window is from **January 3, through March 10, 2017**. This year, **LAS Links, Form D will be administered**. As in previous years, the Kindergarten-Grade 2 assessments will be administered using paper and pencil. Districts have the option to administer the assessment to Grades 3-12 using an online platform or a paper and pencil assessment. Decisions about assessing students using the online versus paper and pencil administration may be made at the **student level**. If you have questions, please e-mail [Megan Alubicki Flick](#) or [Joe Di Garbo](#).

Online Training Resources

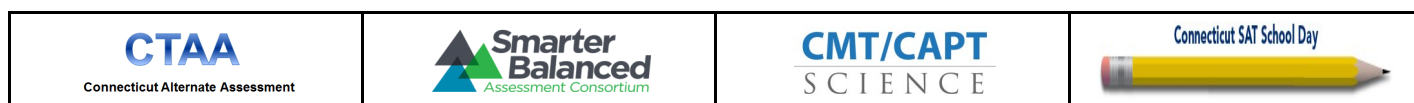
Recorded webinars and training for administering the paper and pencil assessment are available for on-demand viewing in the [LAS Links Digital Library](#).

Smarter Balanced Assessment Individual Reports in Spanish

All students who participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment receive an Individual Student Report (ISR) with student scores, as well as general information about the test. A sample Grade 5 [Spanish](#) ISR is now available for parents/guardians/students. Most aspects of the ISR remain constant across grades. However, the content on the report that varies most are the [Achievement Level Descriptors](#), which reflects the student performance. When combined, these two translated documents provide an indication of a student's performance on the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

State Mandated Exit Criteria

The [Exit Criteria for English Learners](#) document posted on the Connecticut State Department of Education describes the English Learner Exit Criteria beginning in the 2014-15 school year. For students to exit EL services, the student must reach the state mandated requirements of a LAS Links Overall Score of 4 or 5 **and** a Score of 4 or higher for Reading **and** Writing.



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Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Fees for Low Income Students

Since 2012, the CSDE has applied and received a federal grant from the USDE to cover the partial cost of AP exam fees for low income students in Connecticut. For the past several years, the CSDE has also used state funds to cover all remaining AP exam fees for low income students. The CSDE has worked with the College Board to pay directly for these exams on behalf of schools. The existing grant program from the USDE ended in 2016 and will be replaced by another grant, Title IV, Part A. The plans for the distribution and allocation of this new grant have not been determined. However, the CSDE has pledged to cover the costs for AP exams for low income students for the May 2017 administration. Information will be shared soon regarding the plans for 2018 and beyond. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

CSDE Phone Service

The Performance Office is moving to 450 Columbus Avenue, Suite 712, Hartford, 06103, on January 9, 2017. As a result of the pending move, there have been some problems with phone connections, as well as voicemail for department staff. If you have difficulty reaching the Student Assessment Office via phone, please e-mail us at ctstudentassessment@ct.gov.

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
English Language Proficiency Testing	January 3-March 10, 2017
District Administrator/Test Center Supervisor Workshops	January 17-20, 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	Wednesday, April 5, 2017 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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 Connecticut Alternate Assessment			
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