

# CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Performance Office

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS December 7, 2016

**Archived Student Assessment News** CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov 860-713-6860



# **Summative Assessment Updates**

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# **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.

### Participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Review

Liza Droesch, a teacher at Stanton School in Norwich, recently attended a national item review meeting for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Liza was one of two educators from Connecticut who were selected to participate in this activity. She wrote the following about her experience. Thank you Liza!

I recently had an exciting opportunity to be part of the Smarter Balanced Stimulus Review in Dallas, Texas. The group that I was a part of was tasked with reviewing stimuli to be used on the ELA Claim 1 section of the test. Our group met in teams: Grades 3-5, Middle School, and High School. There were about ten teachers, instructional specialists, and state department members that worked together.

We were trained on how to review potential articles for the test. The articles or stimuli are chosen from a bank of copyrighted materials, and are screened very carefully based on a set list of criteria such as text complexity, length, genre, interest level and readability. In addition, the articles are screened for cultural bias. Once a stimuli is accepted to be on the test, test items will be created based on the test standards.

The test is created over a long period of time by many educators from around the country. All items are screened for integrity and designed to accurately measure a student's ability. It was an awesome experience to hear educator's points of view from around the country. I learned that we all have one thing in common, our students! We all were looking out for their best interests, and really tried to select materials that would appeal to students, and be fair to all, no matter what their life experiences were. It gave me new perspectives on the students I teach.











# **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 <u>Guidance for Bring Your Own Device and Online Assessments</u> 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:











# **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 data base.

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.











# **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	<u>Register Here</u>

## Instructions for Entering Accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School Day

# **Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations Chart**



**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 <u>Connecticut SAT SSD Form</u> (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 and once approved, the SSD Online Dashboard will reflect the approval status. Once approved, the SSD Online Dashboard will reflect the approval status. The SSD Coordinators should check the SSD Online Dashboard regularly.











# **Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

- 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 <u>Connecticut SAT SSD</u> <u>Form</u> (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 <u>Web site</u>.











# **Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

#### **ELA and Mathematics Workshops**

The College Board, in conjunction with the CSDE, will be providing several train-the-trainer workshops in December in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The no-cost workshops are intended to prepare school and district staff to train their teams on content of the SAT. Each school (including Approved Private Special Education Programs) can register **two staff members** to participate in a half-day workshop. Department leaders, teachers, curriculum specialists or others who expect to present this training to their respective district teams are invited to attend. Details about each session and information about registration can be found here.

## 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 <u>press release</u> by the CSDE, 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 <u>Web site</u>.

### **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 paper copies of the CTAA Individual Student Reports on November 21 and 22. Two copies of the paper reports were provided 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 <u>2016 Guide for CTAA Score Report Interpretation</u> 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 <u>Connecticut Alternate Assessment Resources</u> card. Some of these include the <u>CTAA Mathematics Performance Level Descriptors</u> and the <u>CTAA English Language Arts/Literacy Performance Level Descriptors</u>, as well as the Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System.









## **Special Populations Updates**

## Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System

The <u>Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System</u> is now available. This overview for parents/ guardians describes components and resources for Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

The <u>2016-17 Assessment Guidelines</u> is posted to the Student Assessment web page under <u>Special Populations Documentation and Resources</u>. This resource provides guidance to Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, CMT Science, the CAPT Science, CMT Skills Checklist Science, the CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the CTAA. These special student populations include students identified as eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students identified as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and students who are identified.

### **Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE**

The <u>Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE</u> brochure provides a brief overview on how to manage student test settings in TIDE. Students' embedded accommodations, non-embedded accommodations, and designated supports must be set in TIDE prior to test administration for these settings to be reflected in the online test delivery system.

#### Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Guidelines and Form

The <u>Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17</u> form must be completed for any student in Grades 3 through 8 who will receive the accommodation of Text-to-Speech or Read Aloud of English language arts/literacy (ELA) reading passages on the Smarter Balanced assessments. This form can be completed online and submitted by clicking on the **SUBMIT FORM** button. The <u>Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-16</u> created by Smarter Balanced will provide you with information about determining if a student qualifies to receive this accommodation.

#### 2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form

The updated <u>2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form</u> used to document the Smarter Balanced and CMT/ CAPT Science supports and accommodations for students with disabilities or English Learners is available.

#### TIDE Test Settings and the Test Supports/Accommodations Form Webinar Available

The slides and recording from the webinar titled *Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE) Test Settings and the Test Supports/Accommodation Form* that was held on **Thursday, November 17, 2016,** are available on our <u>Web site</u>. This webinar provided information about using the new TIDE testing setting system for entering designated supports and accommodations for students and how it relates to information included on the <u>CSDE Test Supports/</u>
<u>Accommodation form</u> for the Smarter Balanced Interim and Summative Assessments and the CMT/CAPT Science Assessments.









## **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. Recorded versions of the four previous webinars are available on our Web site.

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 Assess-

ments 101

Webinar Four Recording: An Overview of the Smarter Balanced Mathematics Interim Assessments 101

#### **Interim Assessment Materials**

The following materials are available to assist with the administration of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment:

Interim Assessment Test Administration Manual provides information for Test Examiners administering the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

<u>AIR Ways User Guide</u> provides instructions and support for users viewing student interim assessment performance reports in AIR Ways.

<u>Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) User Guide</u> provides an overview of how to access and use the AVA. The AVA allows teachers to view items on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

<u>How to Activate a Test Session</u> provides instructions on how to activate a test session for the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment.

### **AIR Ways Reporting Webinar Posted**

The AIR Ways Reporting System Webinar presented on November 9, 2016, is posted to our <u>Web site</u>. The webinar provided an overview of how to navigate the new AIR Ways Reporting system that provides student performance reports for interim assessments.









# **Student Assessment Inventory**

Achieve recently announced the launch of the <u>Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts National Network</u>. The goal of the National Network will be to support up to 12 school districts across the country to use the <u>Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts</u> to take stock of their assessment system, streamline the number of assessments, and ensure all remaining assessments are of high quality and aligned to state learning standards.

Through Achieve's National Network, Achieve will provide districts subgrants between \$5,000 and \$7,000 to districts to complete the assessment inventory. In addition, district and school board leaders from those districts will attend a cross-district convening to learn from other districts that have used the assessment inventory and to finalize inventory planning, as well as receive ongoing support from Achieve staff.

Districts interested in applying to join the National Network should read the <u>Call to Action</u> for details about the application process. Applications are due December 16, 2016.



# **VEW 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.

#### LAS Links Administration Training Session

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will be providing four half-day trainings at ACES, 205 Skiff Street in Hamden on **December 14 and 15, 2016**. Sessions will be offered from 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:30 p.m. each day. The half-day training will address: scheduling online test sessions, reporting accommodations, and how to successfully administer the LAS Links Online. Districts may send up to **three** participants to the in-person training. Register by December 7, 2016.

#### **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.











# **NEW Updates on English Learners**

### LAS Links Training Session for District IT Staff

A 45-minute training webinar hosted by DRC, designed specifically for District IT staff, will be held on December 19, 2016, and January 10, 2017. Each session will repeat the same content. These sessions will cover the following technical aspects of LAS Links Online to ensure a smooth online testing program:

- Review of technical requirements
- Software installation
- Setting up student testing stations
- Vetting of software
- Technical support

The following are the dates and times when DRC will be conducting these live webinars:

Monday, December 19, 2016	Tuesday, January 10, 2017
2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
<u>Register</u>	<u>Register</u>

You must register no later than December 13, 2016. Upon registration you will receive a registration confirmation and an invitation with a link to the webinar.

#### LAS Links Accommodations Webinar

DRC will be hosting a 60-minute training webinar, which will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. This webinar will provide information regarding student testing accommodations for LAS links testing. In our continuing efforts to support English Learners in Connecticut, the CSDE will begin collecting accommodations information for students who are English Learners and students with disabilities.

The following will be discussed during the webinar:

- CSDE policies regarding student test accommodations
- · Accommodations guidelines for LAS Links testing
- How to record test accommodations for eligible students

Please <u>register</u> no later than **December 16, 2016**. You will receive a registration confirmation and an invitation with a link to the webinar.

#### 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.









#### **CSDE Phone Service**

The CSDE is moving from its current location at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Conn. to 450 Columbus Avenue, Hartford, Conn. over the next few months. 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: <a href="mailto:ctstudentassessment@ct.gov">ctstudentassessment@ct.gov</a>.

### **PSAT Results**

The College Board will be releasing results shortly for students who took the PSAT in October 2016. On December 5, 2016, schools will be able to access their students PSAT results through the College Board portal. On December 12, 2016, students who took the PSAT will be able to access their results through their College Board online account. For more information, please visit the College Board's PSAT Web site.

# 2016-17 Important Dates

Event	Dates
The <u>secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year</u> 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)

Register for email updates

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

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