STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

November 23, 2016

NEW **Special Populations Updates**

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NEW **Student Assessment Inventory**

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NEW **CSDE Phone Service**

NEW **PSAT Results**

English Language Proficiency Testing

2016-17 Important Dates

Register for E-mail 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 will be 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 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.

Clarification of TEA User Role for Alternate Assessment

Every teacher administering the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the CMT or CAPT Science, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science must have their own username and password to access the CSDE Portal and the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) system. For teachers administering the Alternate Assessments (the CTAA and/or the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science) the District Administrator (DA), District Coordinator (DC), or School Coordinator (SC) must assign the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA), rather than the Teacher (TE) role. This will allow these teachers to have the same access permissions as their colleagues with the teacher role, in addition to the critical Alternate Assessment required permissions, such as access to the *Directions for Test Administration for the CTAA.*

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CMT/CAPT SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day

Special Populations Updates

Assessment Guidelines

The 2016-17 Assessment Guidelines is posted to the Student Assessment web page under Special Populations Documentation and Resources. 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 as English Learners (EL). This decision making also includes general education students who may require additional supports.

Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System

The Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System 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.

Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE

The Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE 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 Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17 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 Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-16 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 2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form used to document the Smarter Balanced and CMT/ CAPT Science supports and accommodations for students with disabilities or English Learners is available.

CTAA	Smarter Balanced	CMT/CAPT	Connecticut SAT School Day
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	Assessment Consortium	SCIENCE	

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Updates

Interim Assessment Webinars

The last webinar in the interim 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 previous webinars are available on our Web site.

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.

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

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

How to Activate a Test Session 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 Web site. The webinar provided an overview of how to navigate the new AIR Ways Reporting system that provides student performance reports for interim assessments.

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.

CTAA Connecticut Alternate Assessment	**Smarter Balanced** Assessment Consortium	**CMT/CAPT** S C I E N C E	Connecticut SAT School Day
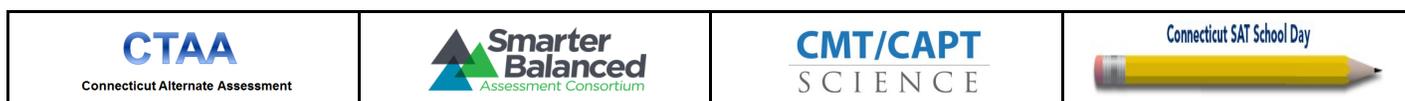
NEW Student Assessment Inventory

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.

The <u>Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts</u>, which Achieve launched in 2014 in response to concerns from parents about too much testing, supports a process by which districts evaluate the assessments students are taking, determine the minimum testing necessary to serve essential diagnostic, instructional and accountability purposes, work to ensure that every district-mandated test is of high quality, is providing the information needed for specific school and district purposes, and is supported by structures and routines so that assessment results are actually used and action steps taken that will help students.

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.

NEW TIDE Test Settings and the Test Supports/Accommodation Form Webinar Available

The slides 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/Accommodation form</u> for the Smarter Balanced Interim and Summative Assessments and the CMT/CAPT Science Assessments. A recorded version will be posted soon to our <u>Web site</u>.

NEW 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 Assessment Office via phone, have questions and need immediate assistance, please e-mail the Student Assessment Office at: ctstudentassessment@ct.gov.

NEW 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.

English Language Proficiency Testing

The annual English Language Proficiency (ELP) testing window will run 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. We encourage districts to consider administering the online assessment for Grades 3-12, but paper and pencil is still available at those grade levels. Please note, that for the first time this year, decisions about online versus paper and pencil administration may be made at the **student level**, rather than by grade level, which was past practice.

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will be providing four half-day trainings at ACES 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. During the half-day training they 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. Registration information can be found here. A webinar is also in development and will be available to all districts on demand. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, please e-mail Megan Alubicki Flick or Joe Di Garbo.

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)

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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