



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

May 10, 2018

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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860-713-6860



Summative Assessment Updates

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Testing Window Closure and Tracking Test Completion

The Summative testing window closes on May 25, 2018, for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, NGSS Field Test, CT Alternate Assessment (CTAA), CT Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) and the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI). As a reminder, **all students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 (excluding alternate science students) are required to participate in the NGSS Field Test.**

It is very important that districts and schools track test completion for students taking the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, NGSS Field Test, CTAA, CTAS and the LCI. The [Monitoring Test Progress: Test Status Code Report and Test Completion Rates](#) brochure contains instructions for generating Test Status Code Reports and Test Completion Rates in TIDE. These are excellent tools that should be used to track test completion for students at both the district and school level.

2017-2018 Test Appeal Requests and Irregularities

There have been many requests for appeals and irregularities submitted to the Student Assessment Office during the last few weeks for tests administered using the AIR Test Delivery System. These tests include the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, NGSS Field Test, CTAA, CTAS, and the LCI. While some of the appeal requests and irregularities are related to extenuating circumstances, many are preventable. Please remind test proctors to:

- Carefully follow steps for test administration as outlined by the Test Administration Manual;
- Verify that appropriate supports and accommodations are functioning at the beginning of the test sessions;
- Remind students to not submit assessments unless they are completely done with the test session; and
- If administering the CTAS, be sure to administer the correct test form based on district assignment.

If you have questions about testing irregularities, please contact our office at 860-713-6860.

Want to find recent announcements regarding Connecticut's assessments? Please visit the CSDE's [Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). You will find information about each assessment, as well as technology resources and information for students and families.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

2018 Administration Appreciation and Feedback

Thank you for your efforts regarding the 2018 administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) appreciates the work done by all involved in the administration.

We welcome feedback from districts and schools about the 2018 administration. A [survey](#) about the administration of the **Connecticut SAT School Day** is available. The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Student and Educator Score Release

Connecticut SAT School Day scores from the March 21, 2018, SAT School Day administration became available to students in their College Board account on Friday, April 13, 2018. Students participating in the April 24 or 25, administration, either as their primary test date or a makeup administration will receive their scores beginning May 17, 2018.

The score release timing for educators is a little different this year. Educators will be able to access student scores through the College Board K-12 Reporting Portal for students who tested in March beginning May 7, 2018. For students testing in the April 24 or 25, administration, scores will be available to educators in early June after the completion of the review of student demographic data.

Student Access to Scores

Students will need a College Board account to view their scores. Direct students to www.collegeboard.org to register for an account if they don't already have one. If students cannot view their scores, they should call the **College Board's Student SAT Helpline at 1-866-756-7346**.

Educator Access to Scores

Educators need two things to access student scores in the score reporting portal:

- A College Board professional account. If you don't have an account, [create one](#).
- Permission from your institution's access manager.

For additional questions about the K-12 reporting portal please contact the College Board at 1-888-728-4357 or e-mail at k12reports@info.collegeboard.org.



Text to Speech Function for English Language Arts CAT

Districts have raised questions regarding the delivery of the Text-to-Speech feature as a designated support for "Items" or as an accommodation for the "Passage & Items" on the English language arts CAT. This feature will not be available for specific test items measuring grammar usage, punctuation, or spelling in effort to accurately measure explicit skills that would otherwise be compromised if read by the TTS. If a student encounters an item for which this feature is not provided, the student should be encouraged to complete the item and continue testing.

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Connecticut Alternate Assessment Secure Testing Materials

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) brochure](#) “How To Access and Download The Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) Secure Testing Materials” provides instructions for how to access and download the CTAA secure testing materials from the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). These grade- and subject-specific secure testing materials include **required** Directions for Test Administration and PDF test forms, which may be used for administering the CTAA to eligible students requiring this accommodation. The secure testing materials are available in TIDE to **District Administrators (DAs)** and **Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) ONLY!**

Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Non-Public Facilities

Connecticut public school districts are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or are enrolled in, in-state non-approved non-public schools. Information on how to administer the NGSS Assessment Field Test, NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test, Smarter Balanced Assessment and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) are included in the [Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State or In-State Non-Approved Facilities](#) document. It is also required that districts test these students in Grade 11 who are enrolled in out-of-state or in-state non-approved non-public programs with the Connecticut SAT School Day or CTAA.

Additional Guidance for the Early Stopping Rule for the CTAA and the CTAS

The CTAA and the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) administration windows overlap so trained teachers (TEAs) may administer these alternate assessments in either order in accordance with the test directions and test windows. If a student is in Grade 5, 8 or 11, prior to calling the CSDE to discuss the Early Stopping Rule (ESR) for the CTAA, the TEA should begin the activities associated with the CTAS. If when participating in the CTAS, the student shows no observable response on the student response check (SRC) **and** no observable response (NR) for the first activity in the first storyline (Form 1: Earth Science Activity 1 or Form 2 Earth Science Activity 1), then the TEA should call the CSDE **before** continuing the CTAS. This step would also occur **before** the TEA enters the data entry interface (DEI) for the CTAS. The TEAs administering both the CTAA and CTAS may make one phone call to the Student Assessment Office if the student is being considered for the ESR for both the CTAA and the CTAS. Please refer to the [Guidance About Students Who Qualify For the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Early Stopping Rule](#) and the [Guidance About Students Who Qualify for the Connecticut Alternate Science Early Stopping Rule](#).

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Resources

On March 16, all Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) materials were released to the Connecticut Public Schools. The materials are located on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Portal](#).

Large Print or Braille for the NGSS Assessment Field Test

All request for large-print or braille booklets for the *NGSS Assessment Field Test* **MUST** be ordered directly from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) by calling 1-844-202-7583. These students must also have these accommodations indicated on their test settings in TIDE. Districts can expect these materials the week of May 7, 2018.



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Alternate Assessment Indicator

The deadline to submit the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) was March 16. The Alternate Assessment Indicator was set to “yes” in TIDE for those eligible students who had an LCI submitted by the March 16, deadline. The Alternate Assessment Indicator allows eligible students to access the required alternate assessments.

If a student becomes eligible for the alternate assessment after the March 16, please contact the AIR Help Desk at 844-202-7583 and provide the State Assigned Student Identification Number (SASID) for the student and confirmation that the LCI has been submitted so that the Alternate Assessment Indicator can be set to “yes.”

PSIS Data and Connecticut Summative Assessments

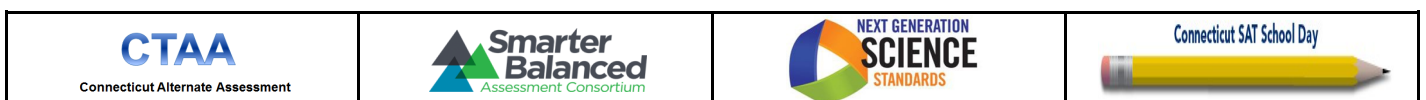
Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators and District Administrators should be collaborating to review the student data to ensure it is correct in the PSIS Registration Module **by May 25, 2018**. On that date, the CSDE will be taking a “snapshot” of the data in the PSIS Registration Module (called the Registration Test Freeze) which will drive the reporting for the annual summative assessment results (participation only for the Next Generation Science Standards Science Field Test and the Connecticut Alternate Science Field Test) for the Connecticut SAT School Day, the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA). The Performance Office recommends **weekly check-ins** between PSIS Coordinators and District Administrators to complete this review and guarantee high-quality data in reporting. During these check-ins, staff should be monitoring things such as:

- Correct student grades.
- Students who may need to be exited from PSIS.
- Students who may need to be entered into PSIS.

The correct student’s statuses are reflected during the time of testing. These fields include:

- Special Education (SPED) Status;
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status;
- English learner (EL) Status;
- Military Family;
- Homeless;
- Recently Arrived EL; and
- Section 504 Status.

Districts have until May 25, 2018, to complete this review. To support this effort, in the *Reports* section of the PSIS Registration Module, there is a report, “Missing Connecticut Testing Demographic Status Values,” which can be used to ensure all values have been reported for your students. Additionally, a resource, [The Importance of Accuracy in the PSIS Registration Module for Statewide Summative Testing](#) is posted to the CSDE Web site to aid districts in this important process. Contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860 or ctstudentassessment@ct.gov if you have any questions.



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Office Hours Webinars

The CSDE will be hosting Office Hours webinars for the **Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Field Tests (Alternate and Census), and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment**. On the webinars, the CSDE staff and their partner vendor, AIR, will provide brief, weekly assessment updates and will also be available for phone support. Below are the details of the Office Hours.

Intended Audience: Any district/school staff who may oversee state summative testing.

When: Every Thursday until May 24, from 3-4 p.m.

Where/How: Please register for each week here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5278114698288158466>.

 **Interim Assessment Survey**

Smarter Balanced is conducting a [Focused Target Interim Assessment Blocks survey](#) to collect feedback on a possible enhancements to the existing interim assessment system. This proposed design would offer blocks that measure smaller bundles of content (one or two targets in math, and up to three targets in ELA). This is a critical opportunity for users to openly offer feedback on a system that has the potential to better support assessment and instructional goals; therefore, we urge users to complete and share this survey with colleagues who actively use the interims. The survey is open for submission through May 17, 2018.

State Assessment	Testing Window	Resources
NGSS Field Test	March 26-May 25 (Grade 11) April 30-May 25 (Grade 5, 8)	Resources for NGSS Field Test Administration
Connecticut Alternate Science Field Test (CTAS)	Upload Dates: April 30-May 25	Resources for CTAS
Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	March 26-May 25	Resources for CTAA Test Administration
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 26-May 25	Resources for Smarter Balanced Test Administration

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.

