Student Assessment News
Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

January 29, 2021

Remote Proctoring Tool

The CSDE continues to strongly recommend that in-person test administration is the preferred method for NGSS and Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments this spring. This is recommended not only for in-person and hybrid students, but also for fully-remote students who can safely take state summative tests in-person. For those fully remote students who are unable to test in-person, the CSDE is working to develop a remote proctoring option. Part of the development process is the Remote Proctoring Tool Pilot that is currently being conducted using the Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessments. A few important benefits of the new Remote Proctoring Tool that will be available for assessing fully-remote students include the ability for test administrators to:

- simultaneously observe all students in a remote test session at once or to select one remote student to observe;

- communicate with all remote students in a test session simultaneously through a "broadcast" feature on the test administration site;

- communicate with individual remote students through a video and chat feature on the test administration site;

- monitor the item completion status of all students in a remote test session; and/or

- monitor and initiate any appeals for test irregularities for students in a test session.

All districts will have access to the Remote Proctoring Tool *beginning in February* for NGSS and Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

These new features in the Test Delivery System will help to maintain the validity of summative testing in this new remote testing environment this spring. The Office Hours webinar scheduled for April 8, 2021, will be specific to remote testing and will include information about the new tool set to open for summative testing on April 19, 2021. Please register for the series of Office Hours for 2021 Assessments.

2021 Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge

The **2021 Lt. Gov.'s Computing Challenge** is open to students in Grades 3-12. Submissions will be accepted until **April 30, 2021**. Additional information can be found on the website .

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION **SCIENCE** ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

Student Assessment News: January 29, 2021

Summative Assessment Updates

2021 Assessment Office Hours

Once again the CSDE Performance Office staff will host Office Hour webinars during the 2021 summative assessment window. The CSDE staff and their partner vendor, Cambium Assessment Inc., will provide assessment updates on various topics. Below are the details of the Office Hours and the focus on some of the dates. All webinars will be from 3 – 4 p.m. with the exception of March 15 which will begin at 3:30. Attendees must register for the series and may attend all or some sessions as needed.

> **February 16 and March 15**: Connecticut Alternate Assessments/Accessibility and Accommodations

> **April 1 and Every Thursday after until June 3**: Standard Office Hours

> **April 8**: This date will be dedicated to the Remote Proctoring tool for remote testing of NGSS and Smarter Balanced.

These webinars are targeted for any district/school staff who oversees state summative testing for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA or CTAS.

Workshop Materials

Thank you for attending the test administration webinars held the week of January 18, 2021. Copies of the slides as well as the recordings for both webinars are available on our web site.

> **General Test Administration Policies Webinar** – PowerPoint and Recorded Version

> **Special Populations Webinar** – PowerPoint and Recorded Version

2021 Test Manuals Available - (Printed Materials to be Shipped Out in March)

Test Coordinator Manual (TCM) - The Test Coordinator Manual provides the District Administrator with information pertinent to the following summative statewide student assessments supported by Cambium Assessment, Inc. (CAI): Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Summative Assessments, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, and the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment.

Smarter Balanced Summative Test Administration Manual (TAM) - This manual provides information for Test Administrators (TAs) administering the Smarter Balanced online summative assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. This manual provides procedural and policy guidance to prepare for and administer the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.

NGSS Test Administration Manual (TAM) - This manual provides information for Test Administrators (TAs) administering the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Test. It outlines rules and policies that should be followed prior to, during, and after test administration.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) Test Administration Manual – This manual provides information for the Teacher Administering the Alternate Assessment (TEA) and the District/School Test Coordinator (DC/SC) regarding policies and procedures for the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in their school or district.

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS): Test Administration Manual – This manual provides information regarding policies, procedures, and preparatory tasks for the administration of the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) to eligible students in Grades 5, 8, or 11 with significant cognitive disabilities.

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Test Coordinator Training

Test coordinator training for the 2021 administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day has been scheduled. It is required that test coordinators participate in training each year. The sessions will be recorded and posted to the CSDE Connecticut SAT web site if coordinators are unable to attend the live training. Please submit any questions you have in advance to https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OgnHCv8rOkK3U9 . This will allow us to make sure we address these questions during the sessions.

Register for **Feb 5, 2021, 9:00-11:00 am** at:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6219115255930798091

Register for **Feb 10, 2021, 2:00-4:00 PM** at:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/892049589078724365

Register for **Feb 11, 2021, 1:00-3:00 PM** at:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4589237701824361229

2021 Test Manuals

Manuals for the 2021 Connecticut SAT School Day have been posted to the CSDE web site. Test Coordinators will receive paper copies of the manuals with the Coordinator Planning Kit which will arrive in schools from February 9-11, 2021. The bulk of the manuals will ship with test materials three weeks prior to testing.

SSD Updates

The deadline for updating or submitting new accommodations into the SSD Online is **February 2, 2021**. Additionally, requests for time and one-half (50%) for eligible English learners must be submitted through SSD by **February 12**. Entries submitted after these deadlines may result in delayed review and approval by the College Board or impact the provision of accommodated test materials prior to the school's primary test date. Students may not test with accommodations unless approved by the College Board.

Some submissions through the SSD Online platform will request additional documentation. For the purposes of the Connecticut SAT School Day, **schools do not need to provide any additional documentation**. Simply upload this form to overwrite the system.

As a reminder, the request for accommodations in SSD should be supported by the student's disability and need. To expedite the approval process for students with a Physical/Medical category of "Other," please provide a brief explanation using the drop-down text box to describe the student's need for that accommodation. This will ensure that student is approved for the most appropriate accommodation(s) to meet their unique needs. For example, if 100 percent (double time) is requested for a student with an "Other" category solely to address his/her anxiety, a more appropriate support may be recommended for that student, such as breaks as needed. In some circumstances, you may be contacted by the CSDE to provide additional information about the student to determine evidence for approval for the requested accommodation(s). Please contact Deirdre Ducharme if you have any questions.

Special Populations Updates

Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website

The Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website is available for public access to non-secure information related to the LAS Links. The website replaces the DRC Digital Library. Content includes recent communication to English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELACs), Assessment Administration resources, LAS Links Remote administration resources, Student Testing Experience resources, Technology resources, Remote LAS Links Screener resources, and more.

LAS Links Remote Test Administration Guidance

On January 4, 2021, the LAS Links Remote Test Administration Guidance Resources memo was sent to all English Learner Assessment Coordinators. Based upon the impact of the state response to COVID-19, previous stakeholder discussions, surveys, changes in District Learning Models, and disproportionate attendance of English learners in school, the CSDE worked with DRC to provide the LAS Links Form D in English to students remotely during the test window. The following documents can be found on the Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website.

LAS Links Remote Test Administrator Guidance Resources

Connecticut LAS Links Remote Instructions for Test Administrators

Web Conferencing Options for LAS Links Remote Test Administration

LAS Links Remote Administration Frequently Asked Questions & Answers for Test Administrators

Connecticut LAS Links Remote Test Administration with Test Monitoring Application PowerPoint

Video Demo LAS Links Remote Test Administration with Test Monitoring

Tech Bulletin: Test Monitoring Application

LAS Links Home Technology Readiness Guide for Test Administrators

Troubleshooting Tips for LAS Links Remote Test Administration

LAS Links Remote Parent/Guardian Documents

1. Parent/Guardian and Student Agreement for LAS Links Remote Testing (English)
2. Parent/Guardian LAS Links Remote Testing Checklist (English)

The Parent Guardian Documents are translated into the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Haitian-Creole, Mandarin and Polish.

LAS Links Appeals Process

Occasionally, testing irregularities, such as special circumstances or incidents which impact an individual or group of students, may potentially affect performance on the test, test security, or test validity. Examples include, but are not limited to, interruptions in testing such as a fire drill, incorrect directions shared, or incorrect assessment accommodations provided to the student. If these incidents occur, the English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) must report the incident via an electronic submission. Please see the CSDE Appeals Process and associated Appeals Form for more information.

Special Populations Updates

LAS Links Administration Reminders for Dually Identified Students

On December 17, 2020, the Dually Identified English Learner Procedures for the 2021 LAS Links Assessment memo was provided to all ELACs. Dually identified students are those students identified as English learners (ELs) who have an active IEP or a Section 504 Plan. All students identified as English learners in Grades K-12 are expected to participate in the LAS Links Assessment between **January 4, and March 31, 2021**. Information and required forms for these processes are available on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website.](#)

Reminders for District Administrators in Preparation for the Upcoming Alternate Assessments

DAs please be sure that your teachers who are expected to administer an alternate assessment this spring have a TEA user role in TIDE. You can manage and monitor user information using TIDE. Ensure that your TEAs have completed and passed the required online Alternate Assessment training and that their TIDE user account shows a trained status. The required training, resources, and brochures are available on the [Alternate Assessment](#) section of the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.](#) Verify that all Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Forms are submitted by your trained TEAs by **February 15, 2021**. If forms are entered after these dates, contact the Connecticut Help Desk at 1-844-202-7583 to request the activation of the student's Alt Flag Indicator in TIDE. If this indicator is not set, the student will not have access to the alternate assessments at the time of testing.

Guidance for the 2020-21 Administration of Alternate Assessments for Math, ELA and Science

The CTAA for math and English language arts will be administered to eligible students in Grades 3-8 and 11 during the spring testing window of March 29-June 4, 2021. Given that these secure assessments are online and require the provision of extensive scripted supports and accommodations by a trained Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA), the CTAA should be administered to students who can be tested in person within the school or district setting.

The CTAS Assessment is administered to eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Grade level science knowledge and skills are assessed throughout the school year by a trained teacher the TEA using scripted Performance Tasks and associated resource materials, which are manipulated by the TEA as described in each Performance Task and by the CTAS Test Administration Manual. The TEA provides both embedded and non-embedded supports and accommodations described in the student's individualized education program over multiple sessions based on the students' needs and stamina. Eligible students may begin the CTAS assessment process now. As a reminder, teachers will

need to complete the required training before any alternate test administration.

Below is the hierarchy for the delivery of the assessment depending on the learning model the student maybe using and following established district safety protocols.

For fully in person or hybrid model students, TEAs can administer the CTAS and CTAA per the CSDE training and manuals in the school setting (and submit student scores for CTAS, if applicable) as required during the testing/DEI upload window (March 29-June 4, 2021).

For students who are currently participating in remote instruction, bring students into a secure district location to test if the TEA is available for proctoring. Multiple administrations would most likely be required.

TEAs may administer the CTAA or CTAS to a student who is currently participating in remote instruction in the student's home. Multiple administrations may be required. Due to the significant needs of these students and the test design (including the manipulation of required test resources, the provision of supports and accommodations and the time required for the TEA and families), the CSDE does not recommend a remote administration.

2020-21 FAFSA Dashboard and FAFSA Challenge

The CSDE launched a [new data dashboard](#) which provides school and district-level completion rates for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA® completion is an important step on the path to postsecondary education and is associated with higher rates of college enrollment. This interactive report allows the user to filter the data based on a variety of criteria, and export to CSV/Excel as necessary. The data in this report will be updated on a weekly basis.

Additionally, 16 school districts were selected to join the FAFSA Learning Cohort and compete for prizes through Governor Ned Lamont's Statewide [FAFSA Completion Challenge](#) designed to help those districts in most need overcome the obstacles to completion while providing targeted support based on national best practices.

The 16 districts selected to join the FAFSA Learning Community based on their applications are: Ansonia, Bridgeport, Danbury, East Hartford, East Haven, Hartford, Meriden, Naugatuck, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich Free Academy, Putnam, Waterbury, and West Haven.

Additional support for students for completing the FAFSA is available through Benefits Data Trust in partnership with the College Board [web site](#). Students can use Wyatt, a FAFSA assistant chat bot which is free to use and always available. Wyatt is available to those students participating in the College Board Opportunity Scholarships.

College Board Opportunity Scholarship Available!

Encourage your juniors to sign up for the [College Board's Opportunity Scholarship](#) and earn their first scholarship entry by building a college list on BigFuture, and remind your seniors to complete the [Apply to Colleges](#) and [Complete the FAFSA®](#) steps before the program closes for them on **February 28, 2021**.

School counselors can [Take the 2021 pledge](#) to receive the College Board's free digital toolkit and learn how to earn a recognition badge for your efforts. You'll also receive monthly tips and resources to support your students with each scholarship step. It is a win, win!

Sign Up for the College Board's First Ever Virtual College Fair– [Big Future Days](#)!

Big Future Days includes the following:

● A regional series of free, virtual college fairs for high school sophomores and juniors. Students can attend more than one.

● Helps students connect with hundreds of colleges, admissions officers, and current college students

● Gives students a tailored experience so that they can establish connections with colleges and take action on important college planning tasks like building a college list and

identifying scholarships

● Includes workshops and seminars on topics of interest to help students understand the steps leading to college

Schools can support this effort by sharing this information so students and their families can learn about these free, virtual college events. Students can register by visiting [cb.org/bigfuturedays](#).

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

Eleven CT Public Schools Earn AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Eleven public schools have earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A (CSA) and/or AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP computer science courses.

Out of 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, these schools are among 1,119 to achieve either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population during the 2019-2020 school year. These 11 Connecticut public schools are among the 1,119 schools that received the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. 831 were honored for AP CSP, 232 for AP CSA, and 56 for both courses.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is critical to ensuring gender disparity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations was $88,240 in May 2019. However, a code.org analysis of 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics data finds women represent just 24% of the 5 million people in computing occupations.

2020 Award	School	District
CSP	Central High School	Bridgeport School District
CSP	Howell Cheney Technical High School	Connecticut Technical Education and Career System
CSP	East Hartford High School	East Hartford School District
CSA	Fairfield Warde High School	Fairfield School District
CSP	Robert E Fitch Senior High School	Groton School District
CSP	Middletown High School	Middletown School District
CSP	Wilbur Cross High School	New Haven School District
CSP	Portland High School	Portland School District
CSP	Stamford High School	Stamford School District
CSP	The Gilbert School	The Gilbert School District
CSP	Weston High School	Weston School District

NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Study

Though the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) was postponed until 2022, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will be conducting the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Study. This involves administering the standard school and teacher questionnaires along with additional questions related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the study is to gather important contextual information from schools and teachers on student learning opportunities and experiences during times of school closures, remote instruction, and hybrid instruction. NCES will release national and state results in the fall of 2021. All schools selected for NAEP 2021 will be contacted directly in early February with next steps. For questions regarding the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Study, please contact Renee Savoie at renee.savoie@ct.gov.

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2020-21

Assessment	Dates
The Cambium secure browsers for the 2020-21 school year must be downloaded for all 2020-21 online tests.	Available for download https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/secure-browsers.stml
LAS Links	January 4, 2021–March 31, 2021
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Deadlines	February 15, 2021—students in Grades 3-8 and Grade 11 students
NGSS Assessments	February 1–June 4, 2021 (Grade 11) March 29–June 4, 2021 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 29–June 4, 2021
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) March 29–June 4, 2021 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 29–June 4, 2021
Connecticut SAT School Day	**Primary Test Dates:** March 24, 2021, **OR** April 13, 2021 (Based on school selection) **Makeup Dates:** April 27 and 28, 2021, May 18, 2021

New on EdSight

2019-20 Discipline Reports: Suspension Rates, Incidents, Sanctions, Bullying

2018-19/2017-28 College Entrance and Persistence

New National Student Clearinghouse High School Reports

Non-Public Student Enrollment and Staff Data

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.

CTAA — Connecticut Alternate Assessment   Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment   Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium   CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT   Connecticut SAT School Day

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer.