



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

March 2, 2022

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Smarter Balanced State Educator Network Summer Workshops

Use the quick links below to access articles and/or sections included in this newsletter.

Page 2
[CT SAT School Day Updates](#)

Page 4
[Special Populations Updates](#)

Page 5
[2021-22 Assessment Calendar](#)

[COVID Resources for Educators and Families](#)

Smarter Balanced is recruiting educators for summer State Educator Network (SNE) workshops. Educators selected will work with other educators from across the country to create instructional resources for [Tools for Teachers](#) - **The Smarter Balanced teacher resource website**. The SNE workshops offer educators the opportunity to collectively contribute to the creation of high-quality, formative assessment instructional resources in Tools for Teachers. The workshops will be held in Portland, Oregon, on **July 13-15, 2022 (English Language Arts)** and **July 18-20, 2022 (Mathematics & K-2)**.

All travel costs will be covered by Smarter Balanced. Please visit the Smarter Balanced [SNE Workshop Recruitment](#) page and complete the [Save-the-Date survey](#) before May 1, 2022, if you are interested. Smarter Balanced will begin contacting selected educators on May 1.

Connecticut SAT Pre-Administration Session (Questionnaire)

Schools do not need to conduct a pre-administration session. But if you choose to, you will need approximately 20-30 minutes. Students will need test tickets that are printed from TIDE. Proctors will start the test session called Questionnaire in the TA Interface. **Schools do NOT need parental consent for the questionnaire because students will not be answering the extended questionnaire.** Students will be answering two questions and adding their 4 free score sends. [Questionnaire instructions](#) were included in the shipment of materials. Schools can also do the Questionnaire portion directly following the test.

- Use script for students *without consent* to complete questionnaire in Pre-admin session (Page 8 in Standard testing room manual).
- Follow “after the test” scripting (Page 29) for students that still have to complete questionnaire/score sends.

Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and Alternative Assessments Office Hours will run every week on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. beginning on March 31, 2022. Additionally, an Office Hours focused on Connecticut Alternate Assessments/Accessibility and Accommodations will run on March 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. To join the TEAMS meetings, [click here to join the meeting](#) or call in (audio only) 1 860-840-2075, with conference ID 825974607#.

Summative Assessment Calendar

On March 1, 2022, the Performance Office released the [Summative Assessment Calendar](#) for the 2022-23 school year. Please note these dates for future planning.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut
Alternate
Science
Assessment



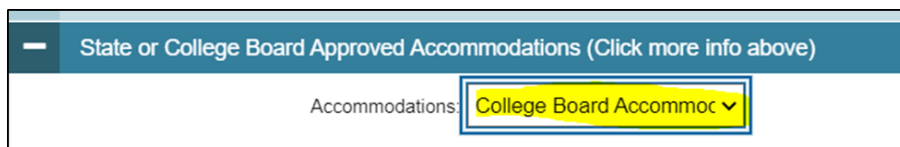
CONNECTICUT
SAT School Day

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Tips for Setting Accommodations in the College Board TIDE System

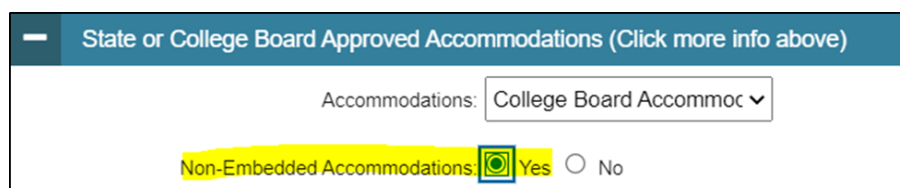
Tip 1. Capturing Accommodations TIDE

From your student’s TIDE Dashboard, under the **State of College Board Approved Accommodations** section, be sure to choose **College Board Accommodations** from the drop down menu. Please note that **State Allowed** does not apply to the CT SAT School Day so please do not select this option.



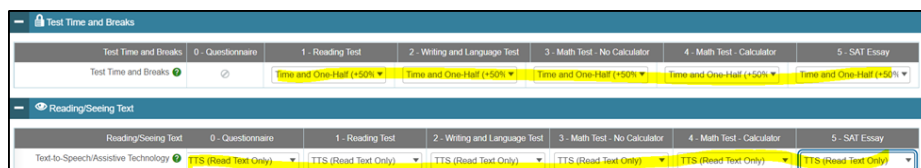
Tip 2. Capturing Non-Embedded Accommodations in TIDE

The **Non-Embedded Accommodation** field in TIDE contains a YES/No value. Unlike other selectable fields, there is no drop-down menu to capture the different types of non-embedded accommodations, such as small group setting, food, medication, or medical device. Rather, if you have a student that is approved for a non-embedded accommodations, choose “Yes” and use the NAR to identify those non-embedded accommodations (e.g., small group setting, medication, food, etc.) to plan appropriately for the student – just as you would if administering a paper-pencil test. If your student is taking a *paper-pencil test*, nothing needs to be set in TIDE, including the **Non-Embedded Accommodation** field. However, be sure to order test material through the College Board (855-373-6387) by March 16.



Tip 3. Capturing Text-to-Speech and Extended Time

Students approved for a reader support using the embedded text-to-speech of items are automatically approved for 50% time and one-half. However, both the **Test Time and Breaks** and **Reading/Seeing Text** sections must be selected in TIDE for each appropriate test. Even though there is no essay for the CT SAT School Day, add the extended time to the SAT Essay field so that the record can be saved.



Tip 4. Approval for Human Reader

If the student’s access needs can be met through text-to-speech technology, set the **Reading/Seeing Text** configurations to Text-to-Speech (Read Text Only) or Text-to Speech (Read Text and Graphics, which provides greater reader access for students with more complex visual disabilities). As described in Tip 5, set the test time accordingly. However, if the student’s access needs cannot be met using the online test delivery system, the student will use a human reader using a paper SAT. Nothing should be set in TIDE. Test materials must be ordered and the student will test in a one-to-one setting with the human reader for the entire assessment. The student will automatically receive 50% time and one-half and a specialized reader script will be sent for the proctor.

Materials to support the **CT SAT School Day** are available on the [CSDE CT SAT web page](#) and the [College Board’s Digital Test Portal](#)

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Tip 5. Capturing Extended Time

Students may be approved in SSD for a variety of extended time options depending on their documented need and requisite for other accommodations that influence test time. The selection of extended time in TIDE is usually straightforward, but not always. Below are examples of common time configurations for the **Test Time and Breaks** section:

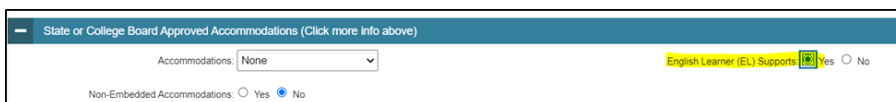
- For students approved for 50% time and one-half, choose 50% time and one-half for each test section as appropriate. As a reminder, if the student is approved for 50% ET in reading, this extended time carries across all test sections and should be set for the math sections as well.
- For students approved for 50% time and one-half for Math *only*, choose 50% time and one-half for Math Sections 1 and 2, while the other subject areas remain defaulted to “standard.”
- For students approved for 50% time and one-half for Math AND extended breaks, choose 50% time and one-half for Math Sections 1 and 2, and choose extra/extended breaks for Reading, Writing, and the Essay.
- For students approved for 100% double time, choose 100% for each test section as appropriate.
- For students approved for extended breaks *only*, choose extra/extended breaks for all test sections.
- For students approved for breaks as needed *only*, choose extra/extended breaks for each test section as appropriate and schedule to test the student in a 1:1 test setting. This will allow the proctor to pause the test when unscheduled breaks are requested by the student.
- If your student is approved to test with 50% or 100% *with* breaks as needed, select 50% or 100% for each appropriate test section and plan to schedule testing in a 1:1 test setting. This will allow the proctor to pause the test when unscheduled breaks are requested by the student.

Tip 6. Approval for Scribe

There may be a variety of reasons why a student needs a scribe for the College Board SATs. If you have a student that is approved through the Nonstandard Administration Report, work with your student to determine how their needs will be met digitally, especially since the essay is not part of the CT SAT School Day. Perhaps a scribe is not needed. However, if it is determined that your student will use assistive technology to record answers, set **Permissive Mode** to “ON” in TIDE and test the AT functionality using the digital SAT Practice Test in advance. However, if the student requires a human scribe to record answers, set **Non-Embedded Accommodation** field to “YES” in TIDE, and test the student in a 1:1 test setting. Set the 50% time and one-half in the **Test Time and Breaks** section in TIDE for all test sections. If the student is approved to use a scribe and take the paper-pencil test, nothing needs to be set in TIDE.

Tip 7. Testing Supports for English Learners (EL)

College Board offers testing supports for English learners. Available supports for EL students include time and one-half (+50%), the use of bilingual word-to-word



The screenshot shows a configuration window titled "State or College Board Approved Accommodations (Click more info above)". It features a dropdown menu for "Accommodations" currently set to "None". To the right, there is a section for "English Learner (EL) Supports" with a checked "Yes" radio button and an unchecked "No" radio button. Below this, there is a section for "Non-Embedded Accommodations" with an unchecked "Yes" radio button and a checked "No" radio button.

dictionaries from the College Board’s [approved list](#), and the option to use translated test directions, available for download on the [Connecticut SAT School Day webpage](#). Only students using EL extended time need test settings configured in TIDE prior to test day. In this case, set **English Learner (EL) Supports** to “Yes” and set 50% time and one-half for all test sections in **Test Time and Breaks section**. Do not set **Non-Embedded Accommodations** for English learners using other language supports. This field should remain defaulted to “No.”

If there are any specific concerns or questions about setting configurations in TIDE, please contact SSD Customer Service at 855-373-6387 or satschooldaysupport@collegeboard.org OR contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#).

Student Assessment News: March 2, 2022

Special Populations Updates

LAS Links Test Window Extended

On February 18, 2022, English Learner Assessment Coordinators were notified of a change in the LAS Links testing window. The 2021-22 LAS Links testing window was originally scheduled to end on March 4, 2022. However, as a result of concerns shared by districts primarily due to COVID related staff and student absences, the Performance Office extended the 2021-22 LAS Links window for two weeks. LAS Links testing must now be completed by **March 18, 2022**. If you have any questions, please email ctstudentassessment@ct.gov.

LAS Links Testing Out of District

Districts are responsible for testing students identified as English learners in PSIS who are placed out of the district including in Approved Private Special Education Programs (APSEPs). Please contact the DRC Help Desk (866-282-2250 Option 2) or LinksHelpDesk@DataRecognitionCorp.com if you encounter technical difficulties accessing the DRC Portal for these students. Be sure to include your Las Links IT Lead in these conversations.

Smarter Balanced and NGSS Paper Material Orders

The District Administrator (DA) in TIDE is responsible for ordering paper materials for students requiring Large Print or Braille test booklets. Remember that although the English Language Arts Performance Task (PT) may appear in the paper materials, it should not be NOT administered. Additionally, all student responses for Large Print and Braille must be transcribed into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) for scoring, prior to returning the secure paper documents to Measurement Incorporated. Please email [Deirdre Ducharme](mailto:Deirdre.Ducharme@ct.gov) or [Janet Stuck](mailto:Janet.Stuck@ct.gov) with any questions.

Students with Visual Impairments

If you have a student that uses the embedded magnification/Zoom or enlarged print when taking the online Smarter Balanced or NGSS assessments, a mouse pointer is available in large and extra-large with a variety of color options (black, green, red, yellow or white). While this is a designated support, it must be activated by the CSDE. Please contact [our office](#) and provide the student's SASID, mouse size and color if this support is needed.

Requests for Special Documented Accommodations due March 1

Requests for Special Documented Accommodations should be requested by the District Administrator for Testing for students requiring accommodations such as a human reader, human signer, scribe, math manipulatives, or other types of non-standard testing accommodations. Please refer to Appendix C of the [Assessment Guidelines](#) for details. If you missed the March 1 deadline, please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](mailto:Deirdre.Ducharme@ct.gov) or [Janet Stuck](mailto:Janet.Stuck@ct.gov) as soon as possible.

Student Assessment News: March 2, 2022

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2021-22

Assessment	Dates
LAS Links	January 3-March 18, 2022
NGSS	February 7-June 3, 2022 (Grade 11) March 28-June 3, 2022 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut SAT School Day (Digital Administration)	March 23-25 and 29-30, 2022 Make-up Window: April 26-28, 2022
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 28-June 3, 2022
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI: CTAS Student Score Worksheet) March 28-June 3, 2022 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 28-June 3, 2022
Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	Anytime during the school year

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form	
Submission Dates Through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Student Subgroup
November 19, 2021 –March 1, 2022	Eligible students in Grades 3-8; Extended deadline for newly eligible Grade 11 students
June 3, 2022	DEI closes for the spring 2021-22 assessment window.

To facilitate communication with parents/guardians about the upcoming Smarter Balanced and NGSS testing, the Performance Office created a sample letter that may be helpful. Please access the [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions on the CSDE Website.

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.

